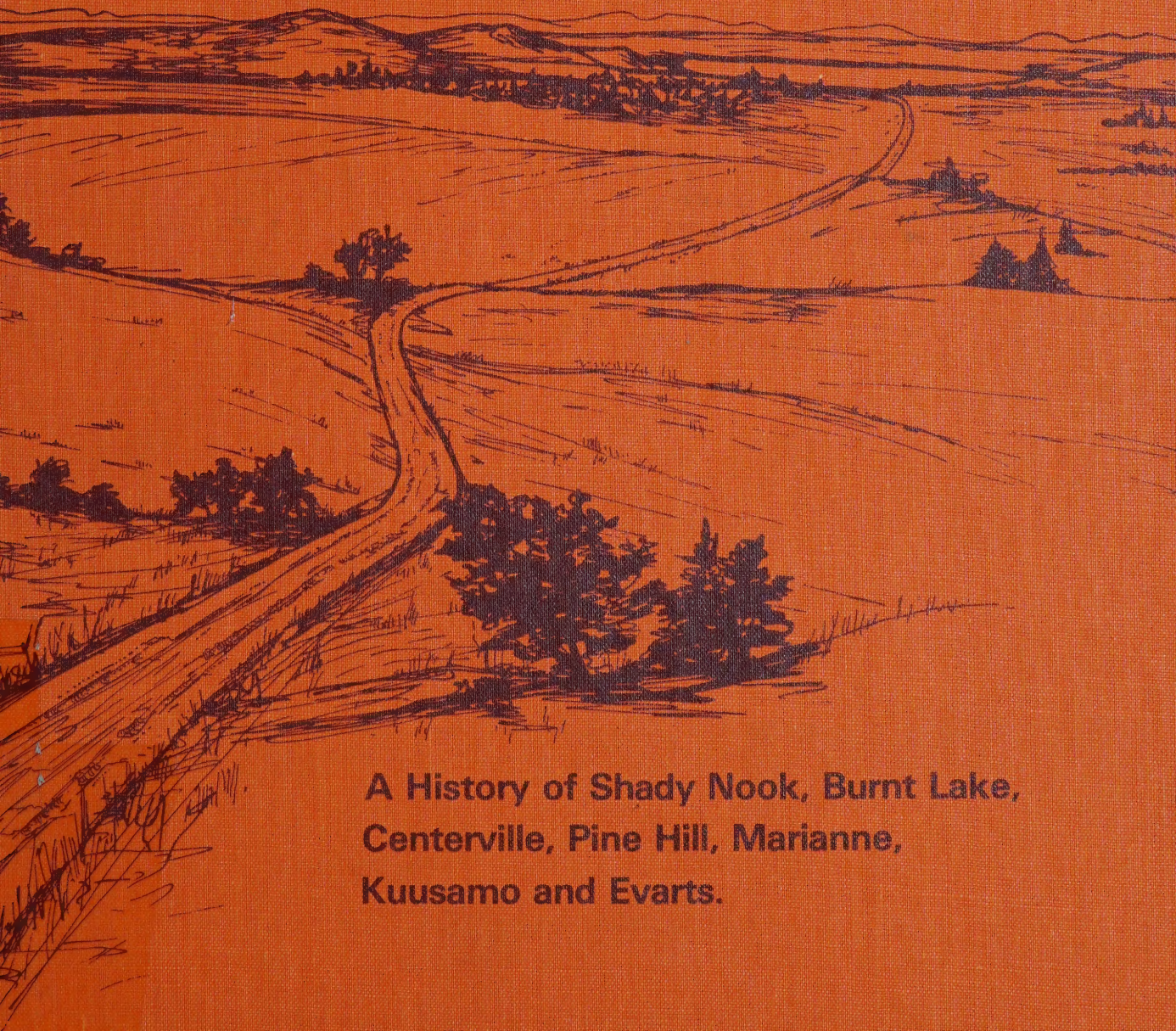




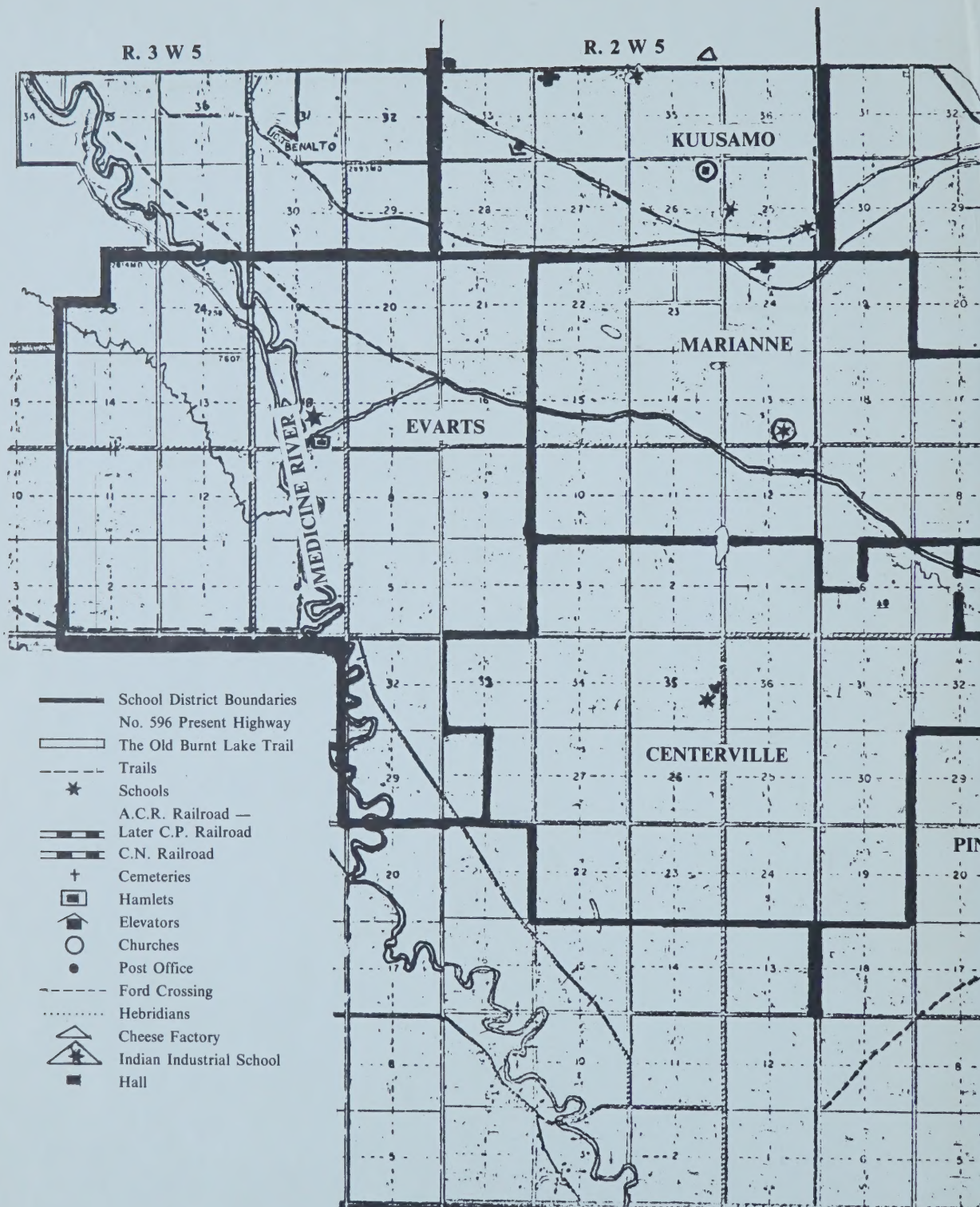
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ALONG THE BURNT LAKE TRAIL



A History of Shady Nook, Burnt Lake,
Centerville, Pine Hill, Marianne,
Kuusamo and Evarts.



A gift to Herb McClure
from Jim Archibald

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see page 39
Roy Archibald
p. 100
Aunt Robinette
(Jim's grandfather)
p. 68-70 Leshkes
(Mel, Howard & Ken's
grandparents)
see pictures 124-136

T. 37
Roy Archibald land
NW 1/4 - Sec. 15 - Twp. 38 R. 28 W. 4
Robinette LGA. NE 1/4 - Sec. 9 - 38 - 28 - 24



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ALONG THE BURNT LAKE TRAIL



A History of Shady Nook, Burnt Lake,
Centerville, Pine Hill, Marianne,
Kuusamo and Evarts.



*Some of the book committee — January 1977. Back — Jim Braithwaite, George Fitch, Dorothy Periche, Nellie Watson. Front — E. M. Dallaire, Molly Lindman, Yvonne Matejka, Kay Johanson. The book title, *Along The Burnt Lake Trail*, suggested by Geo. Fitch, was chosen from several submissions.*

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Standard Book No. 0-919213-48-0

Published by
Burnt Lake History Society

R.R. 1
Red Deer, Alberta
T4N 5E1

Printed by
Friesen Printers
5720 Macleod Trail S.
Calgary, Alberta
T2H 0J6

Head Office: Altona, Manitoba

"He that would know what shall be must consider what hath been."

— ancient proverb

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION

Eternal Father, before whose eyes the generations of mankind come and go, we give Thee thanks for those men and women, who by their labours and ceaseless toil, have bequeathed to us such a gracious heritage as is ours today.

May all the good that we have seen in their lives continue to inspire and encourage us in this our own day and generation.

Our Father in Heaven, may this book, then, each line, and every word, be set apart to the hallowing of their memory and for the inspiration of all who shall, now and in the days to come, find enjoyment in the reading of this work.

AMEN

Rev. John D. Yoos

DEDICATION

With reverence we remember our ancestors, those wonderful pioneer men and women who settled here to raise families without whom this book could not be written.

We dedicate these works to the young people whose task it will be to carry the torch of civilization into the uncertain future.

As our life span here slowly ends, we can banish all our fears and pass our heritage forward to this new group of younger pioneers.

To all of the young folk along the Burnt Lake Trail

We salute you.



OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR
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We tend to think of history as a record of events that took place during the days of the Roman Empire, the exploits of the Spanish Armada or the discovery of America by Columbus. Well that is history. But, we also have history that is more recent and much closer to home and that is the history that was made by men, women and children right here in our own province. People who came from well settled countries to a land of vast unsettled prairies, timbered areas, rivers, streams, lakes and rolling foothills, where hardships were many.

The stories as told in this book by the people whose ancestors were the pioneers who were willing to endure hardships and privation for the opportunity of making a better way of life for their families.

It must be mentioned here, too, that the Indian people were willing to lend a helping hand whenever they could. Had it not been for their advice and help, a good many of these pioneers would not have survived some of the hardships they had to face.

To all these people, both Native and white, the readers owe a debt of gratitude for their perseverance in establishing homes and communities, and in doing so, provided some of the many cultures of which this country is made.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Ralph G. Steinhauer".

Ralph G. Steinhauer,
Lieutenant-Governor.

December 21, 1976.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Burnt Lake Historical Society acknowledge with gratitude the many sources of help received in compiling this book. They are numerous — The Provincial Land Titles Offices, The Archives in Edmonton and Red Deer, Calgary Glenbow Foundation, The Postal Museum in Ottawa, and many private records, both written and pictorial.

We thank those who researched old school and municipal records, and those devoted members who travelled many miles gathering histories and inspiring families to write their own stories. To our unfailing typists and proof readers, this book is a monument to their dedicated work. And finally to the ladies who served innumerable cups of coffee and tea to supply much needed refreshment, and to the Burnt Lake community for the use of their centre.

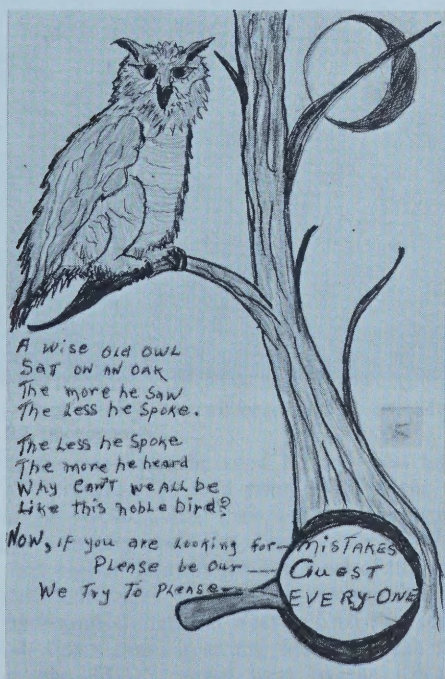
It has been an unprecedented effort for us, in that no one had any prior experience at book writing. It has progressed by trial and error, taking one step at a time. No doubt there will be many mistakes and omissions, for which we beg your forgiveness. We have endeavored to be accurate but at times the facts were scanty and memory, that so often we had to depend on, was cloudy and failing. If we have passed by some too lightly or missed someone altogether, it was by no means intentional.

It has been a fascinating experience, so many friendships made and deepened. We trust the reading of this history will give pleasure in an ever widening circle.

The Book Committee

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GENERAL ARTICLES



THE BURNT LAKE TRAIL

Before the turn of the century, Red Deer River crossing at Fort Normandeau played a very important role in the trade lanes between Calgary and Edmonton. It was at this site that all travellers between the two centres had to ford the river.

The Crossing also played a big part in the development of the area west of Red Deer portrayed in this history. All commerce west of Red Deer used the same means of crossing the river.

To aid in crossing the Red Deer River, a crude ferry was in use for a few years. This proved more dependable when the river was too high for safe fording.

Shortly after the turn of the century, a bridge was built over the Red Deer River at a point near the C.P.R. railway bridge. This was an unsound structure often washed out or damaged by spring ice or fast flowing water. From the bridge the trail followed close to the river — so near to the banks that many early settlers recall being frightened by the twisty ruts, breathing a sigh of relief when finally the trail headed west away from the river.

From the crossing, the road headed west following closely the present road to a point south of the Cygnet elevator, SW 16-38-28-4. It then followed a natural hog's back approximately two miles. This natural road bed was several feet higher than the general level of the land and can be still clearly seen. It runs right through the farm occupied by Naomi Johanson, west to Carl Pearsons, S ½ 7-38-28-4. From there it swung south through sections one and two 38-1-5, again west to the townsite of Stockholm, later called Burnt Lake.

From Burnt Lake the road went west to the thriving hamlet of Evarts and on to Rocky Mountain House.

This trail proved to be a lifeline for the early settlers providing them with the supplies they needed to survive.

Many different forms of transportation were used: carts, wagons, buggies, sleighs in winter, all drawn by horses. Horseback riders with or without the luxury of a saddle were also a common sight.

Often early settlers lacked the availability of horses and were forced to use their own legs and walk the many miles to Red Deer. Sons and daughters of old timers furthering their education in Red Deer walked home Friday night hoping to find an easier way back late Sunday to attend classes.

With the arrival of the motor car it became apparent that the trail had to be replaced with a grade and culverts (made of wood). This was started in 1912 on the same route used today.

Around 1935 the farmers in the area banded together with trucks and wagons, loading them with shovels, and provided the first gravel to the Burnt Lake graveyard corner. This provided at last a few miles of passable roads instead of the deep mud whenever it rained.

We now enjoy a wide road with a few gentle curves soon to be paved to highway standards to serve the bustling farms west of Red Deer.

HISTORY OF THE ALBERTA CENTRAL RAILWAY — The Burnt Lake Historical Society is indebted to Mr. Michael Dawe for researching and writing the following account of the A.C.R.

The Alberta Central Railway was incorporated in May 1901 by the Dominion government. The men behind its incorporation were John T. Moore (a Toronto chartered accountant, businessman, and alderman who was manager of the Saskatchewan Land and Homestead Company, president of the Western General Electric and Telephone Company and president of the A.C.R.), William Moore, son of John T. Moore and manager of Western General here in Alberta, George W. Smith (Red Deer's first teacher), D. J. Munn (a New Westminster, British Columbia businessman) and John Flett and R. C. Clute (Toronto businessmen).

Originally the A.C.R. was to run from Coal Banks (a spot near the Content Bridge), through Red Deer and west to township 39, range 7, west of the fifth meridian (a spot near Rocky Mountain House). However, as time went on, its planned route was expanded west to the Fraser River Valley (via the Yellowhead Pass) and east to Moose Jaw. Ultimately, the A.C.R. was planned as a

"transcontinental" extending from Vancouver to Hudson's Bay.

Two factors probably played a major role in the creation of the A.C.R. The first and most general reason for the A.C.R.'s existence was that railroads meant settlement and progress and the A.C.R. provided a means of developing Central Alberta. A second more specific factor had to do with the position of the Saskatchewan Land and Homestead Company. The Saskatchewan Land and Homestead Company had been set up in 1883 by several Ontario businessmen (including Dr. Leonard Gaetz and John T. Moore) as part of a scheme to take advantage of the land speculation possibilities created by the construction of the C.P.R. and to provide a means of settling British and Ontario Methodists in the Canadian West. Some 180 square miles (the odd numbered sections in 10 townships) were bought in a rectangular block which extended 18 miles east and 18 miles west of Red Deer and 5 miles north and 5 miles south. To the disappointment of the Saskatchewan Land and Homestead Company's shareholders, the C.P.R. did not use the Howse Pass Route (which would have placed the mainline right through the company's holdings). When the C.P.R. did run a line through the area in 1891, only a small part of the company's lands (those around the present city of Red Deer) had easy access to the railroad. The A.C.R. with its eastwest route provided a means by which a much greater portion of the Saskatchewan Land and Homestead Company's holdings could be opened up to settlers.

Shortage of capital delayed for several years any plans for actual construction. However this did not mean that the A.C.R. was forgotten about for the time being. John T. Moore had political ambitions (he was Red Deer and district's first M.L.A. and in 1908 he tried to become the federal member of parliament). His role in the plans for the A.C.R. was a great way to capture votes particularly from those who had already settled in the Pine Lake, Delburne, Burnt Lake, Sylvan Lake, Evarts and Eckville districts.

By 1909, when Moore was up for re-election to the provincial legislature, people had become somewhat tired of his talk of the A.C.R. They wanted a railroad and not just talk at election time. The trick used by Moore in 1908 of having a few token and utterly useless surveys made only convinced people that the A.C.R. was a phoney railroad. They demanded that the charter be cancelled and that another railroad, preferably the C.P.R. or Canadian Northern be allowed to make plans for a branch line in the area.

At this point, Moore managed to get the federal government to offer a \$6400 per mile subsidy to the A.C.R. This subsidy combined with the primarily British capital which was attracted to the railroad by the potential which the subsidy had created, made construction finally feasible. Unfortunately for Moore, he still lost the election to Edward Michener, the Independent and later Conservative M.L.A. who was to lead the official opposition in the Alberta legislature. Nevertheless, starting in the spring of 1910, surveys were made on the section of the A.C.R. between Red Deer and Rocky Mountain House. The preliminary surveys were finished by March and the route map was filed in Ottawa on March 11, 1910. By July, some grading had begun in the area west

of the town of Red Deer and east of the Red Deer River. On August 10, the Prime Minister of Canada, Sir Wilfred Laurier arrived in Red Deer to drive the first spike (it was solid silver) at the planned station grounds near where Mountview School stands today. By September 23, grading had proceeded far enough west that a construction camp was set up at Burnt Lake. Grading was also started along the Medicine River and brush was cleared near Sylvan Lake. By October 21, four camps had been set up with one along the Red Deer River, one at Burnt Lake, another at Evarts and yet another at Pitcox (now Hespero).

Grading and brush clearing were not the only activities which were started. Work was started on a trench to drain off part of Burnt Lake and on the bridges across Waskasoo Creek and the Red Deer River.

In early 1911, further grading and brush clearing was carried out. Work was begun on the bridge across the North Saskatchewan River at Rocky Mountain House and surveys were made to extend the line out to the Brazeau coal fields. Some grading was also carried out in the Edwell and Pine Lake area.

Much of the grading and survey work was initially handled by men employed directly by the company or by sub-contractors hired by the company. R. G. Dawe was the engineer who supervised the work between Red Deer and Sylvan Lake. George S. McKay was the engineer in charge of the area between Sylvan Lake and Evarts and J. M. Roberston was the engineer in charge west of Evarts. Jackson and Goldie of St. Boniface handled the work on the Red Deer bridge with the Walsh Brothers and Wright having the contract to supply the bridge timbers. D. Treadway and Sons handled the draining of Burnt Lake.

While the people named above were brought in from other parts of Canada, many of the people hired by the A.C.R. and the various sub-contractors were local people. This meant that many prospective homesteaders and many people who were already settled, found jobs with which to get the necessary money to tide them over the difficult early years..

Local people were also helped by the railroad in that the construction camps provided ready markets for their produce. Lumber (for ties and bridges), grain (for the feed of the horses used in the grading teams), and beef and vegetables (for the meals of the railroad's workers) all found ready sale at very good prices.

By early 1911, however, the A.C.R. had run into some serious difficulties. It had spent over \$300,000 and its supply of capital was becoming seriously depleted. The federal subsidy only came in as the construction on each mile was completed. J. T. Moore who had been directing most of the work had become seriously ill and a contractor named J. D. McArthur of Winnipeg had to be hired at the rate of \$25,000 per mile to continue construction.

Another problem came in the form of competition from the Canadian Northern Railway. The C.N.R. had decided to build a line to the coal fields around Nordegg. In order to cut costs, they copied a great deal of the survey work already done by the A.C.R. Thus, the C.N.R. line was built alongside the A.C.R. line with many points of intersection between the two lines.

The resulting intense competition had serious com-

plications. The two companies bid up the price of labor and materials to the extent that although the local settlers enjoyed a bonanza, the costs to the two companies became especially onerous. Legal wrangles developed as the competing railroads built their grades over each other (at a height of up to six feet above the other's grade) and violence broke out between the construction and survey gangs.

By late 1911, the A.C.R. could no longer cope with its legal administrative and financial problems. It worked out a deal by which the C.P.R. took over construction and leased the charter for 999 years.

The C.P.R. was not that terribly interested in the A.C.R. line and construction slowed considerably. While the C.N.R. laid steel to Rocky by 1912, the C.P.R. did not reach the same point until 1914. The A.C.R. bridge over the North Saskatchewan was leased to the C.N.R. since the C.P.R. dropped all work west of Rocky Mountain House and east of Red Deer.

The A.C.R. has left its mark on Central Alberta. It helped to open up the west country to settlement and helped start such towns as Benalto, Sylvan Lake and Alhambra. Its drainage of part of Burnt Lake helped to increase the amount of hay land available to farmers in the area. However, it seems likely that the A.C.R. line will not last much longer as the C.P.R. has listed it as a line to be abandoned once government approval is secured.

THE ALBERTA CENTRAL RAILWAY IN SHADY NOOK

The A.C.R. enters our area by way of a large bridge which rises high above the river flat and the river. It reaches the west bank near the center of section 27-37-28-4.

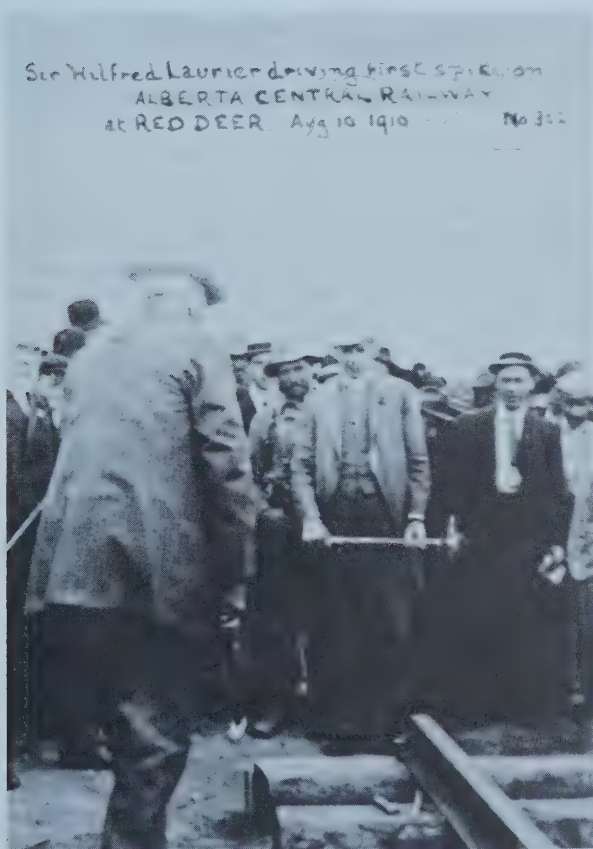
The contract for the bridge was awarded to the Canadian Bridge Company. It called for a structure 2,112 feet long to be supported on 15 quadrilateral towers and a large center pier. The top of the pier was to be four feet above the known high water mark, armoured on the upstream side to protect it from the ice flows. The bridge rises 110 feet above the main pier. Each quadrilateral, sets on four piers, one under each leg. The contract to supply the cement went to H. Plowman of Pitox and called for 700 tons — some of it to be used to build the railway bridge across the North Saskatchewan at Rocky. An estimated 450 tons were used for the bridge across the Red Deer River. In order to facilitate the construction of the big bridge, local resident engineer, R. G. Dawe of the A.C.R. supervised the building of a 445 foot suspension bridge first on the north side of the site. The river was too high to ford at the time so a good swimmer was hired to swim across with a light line. They then pulled over a heavy rope and it in turn was used to pull the cables across.



Railroad crane building A.C.R. bridge across the Red Deer.

The bridge site was picked in the fall of 1910. Gravel for the piers was hauled that winter by local farmers. In order to insure that enough gravel was on hand, hauling was carried on six days a week and the men in our area who hauled gravel stated that not one day of work was missed that winter. The gravel for the center pier and those on the east side was hauled in wagons from a gravel flat two and one-half miles upstream, the gravel being on the east side on the SE ¼ 16. Gravel for the piers on the west of the river came from a pit on the NE ¼ of 27.

One warm day that winter the man setting the blasting charge to loosen the gravel had just set some blasting powder, lit the fuse and started out of the pit. As he attempted to climb the bank the gravel broke loose. He tried to climb very fast but only managed to stay in the same place, much to the amusement of the loading crew. The gravel broke up into small pieces and although showered with gravel he was uninjured.



Left with white beard, John T. Moore. Back to camera Mr. Graham, centre Sir Wilfrid Laurier. Right with dark suit, Mr. Carscallen.



The finished product.

One man lost his life during construction of the bridge. Hewson Anderson, a local 20 year old man fell from the scaffolding around the center pier and was swept under the ice.

No progress was made on the super structure in 1911 as the A.C.R. was short of financing. In 1912 the C.P.R. took over the A.C.R. By July the bridge had reached the middle of the river and it was completed that fall. The bridge joins high earth abutments at each end by way of a section of wooden trestles. The embankments carry the rail bed to level ground. It is particularly high at the west end as it is built on the edge of a ravine.

This was the second largest bridge in Alberta at the time of its construction, only the bridge at Lethbridge was larger.

The next expensive project undertaken by the A.C.R. was the ditching of Burnt Lake. The work was done with a large steam shovel owned by the railbed contractor D. Treadway and Son. This required a ditch two miles long. It was essentially a deepening of the creek flowing from Burnt Lake to the river and 2000 feet of this creek required an excavation of 20 feet in depth. The purpose of the ditch was to draw the water off 5,000 to 7,000 acres of land, 2,000 acres covered by water of a maximum depth of six feet was left undrained. It cost \$30,000.00 to deepen the creek. The railroad was built across the lake and leaves the lake just two miles southeast of the town of Sylvan Lake.

Most of the work in our area was carried on from a mule camp located at a flowing spring near the center of the NE $\frac{1}{2}$ 27. Treadway had 70 head of working mules and hired all the local men available who owned teams and slips.

PAYMENTS MADE BY THE A.C.R.

Wages — Initially the A.C.R. paid \$2.50 per day for men, \$5.00 per day for men with teams and 75¢ per day was deducted for room and board. Oats, hay and shelter were provided by the company for the teams. Later, when competition by the C.N.R. made available men and teams scarce, the A.C.R. paid \$3.00 per day for men and \$6.00 per day for men with teams. Among the paymasters for the A.C.R. were C. E. Leef and E. S. Hogg.

Other Payments — Generally speaking, the A.C.R. paid between \$10.00 and \$20.00 per acre for the right of way. The right of way agent while the A.C.R. was still an independent company was J. Carlyle Moore, the lawyer son of John T. Moore. Later when the C.P.R. took over, the right of way agent was P. Macpherson.

In order to get feed for the teams it hired, the A.C.R. bought oats from local farmers at 35¢ to 40¢ per bushel and hay at \$25.00 per ton. By way of comparison, farmers received 20¢ per bushel for oats when sold through commercial channels.

BEFORE THE WHITE MAN — by Heather Harden Botting

Before the white man came to the Burnt Lake district — before Anthony Henday even set foot in Alberta — the waters of Sylvan Lake and Burnt Lake formed a continuous body of water about 14 miles long and two miles wide that was called by the Blackfoot **Kanaypokosahigan**: Snake Lake. Three tribes — the Blood, the Peigan and the Siksika or “true Blackfoot” — formed the Blackfoot Confederacy that controlled the land west and south of Red Deer. The Cree had already made inroads into the prairies, bringing with them guns and tools that they had received from the white men in the East in exchange for furs. But the Cree were more merchants than trappers, and relied on the Blackfoot and other tribes to supply furs; they made huge profits in their trading.

Other tribes wandered through Central Alberta, but few lingered long; the Kootenays who initially lived east of the Rockies, were pushed further west, and the Peigans considered the Kootenays to be their primary enemies even as late as 1800 according to David Thompson, who wrote extensively of the conflict in his diary. The Cree, sticking to the rivers, gradually encroached on Blackfoot territory; initially the Blackfoot were reported far to the east — in Saskatoon — but more and more they drifted westward, pushing the Kootenays right up into the mountains and eventually across them to the valleys on the other side.

Long before white fur traders came to the West they had heard about the supposed viciousness of the Blackfoot, who reputedly staged daring raids to steal from the roving Indian bands of other tribes who did not have horses and guns. Ironically, the Blackfoot were merely falling into a pattern already established by the arrival of white settlers far to the south: they themselves had experienced untold savagery at the hands of southern tribes, the Snake and the Souix. The Blackfoot themselves had been reduced in the early 1700s to a state commonly referred to as their “dog days” when, disorganized and disoriented, they wandered the foothills and plains, pursuing buffalo on foot, armed only with bow and arrow, courage, and sagacity.

In fact, the Cree deliberately exaggerated the attitudes of the Blackfoot to the white traders. For decades the Blackfoot had traded with the Cree; who would purchase the furs from the Blackfoot for pittance, passing the pelts off as the fruits of their own labour when

they travelled back to the trading posts. The Cree were middle-men, manipulators who deliberately discouraged the white men from trading directly with the Blackfoot by circulating tall tales about their viciousness and lack of cooperation. These tales may have delayed white settlement. Certainly it put the Cree in a position to monopolize the fur trade, and it kept the Blackfoot relatively poor.

At first only small domestic goods were used in the fur trade: sewing needles, copper and iron pots, steel tools, trinkets and cloth. Then in the 1730's, twenty years before any white man set foot in Alberta, the Cree “imported” yet another by-product of his civilization: smallpox. The Cree had had a chance to build up immunity to the disease, but the Blackfoot fell like flies. Within months, half of the residents of central Alberta were dead.

Not understanding the principles of epidemics and disease, the Blackfoot interpreted the smallpox to be a curse originating from supernatural sources. Yet they understood that the curse had come with contact with the traders from the East, and they began to hedge in their trading so that the Cree had to woo them with more impressive goods — guns. The Blackfoot well understood the usefulness of guns for hunting buffalo, but they had something else on their minds: the horses of their southern neighbours. Up to this time, horses were considered a delicacy by the Indians, but gradually their usefulness as means of transportation became apparent. The tribes to the south had horses but no guns. The tribes to the east had guns but no horses. The Blackfoot were the first tribe in Western Canada to put the two together. Within twenty years, the deadly combination used as a mechanism of defence and aggression had put the Blackfoot in control of what is now Central Alberta.

By the time Anthony Henday arrived in the late summer of 1754, the Blackfoot were a wealthy people. Furthermore, he found to his surprise that they eagerly awaited a first-hand meeting with a white man — a meeting which first took place near Pine Lake. Two hundred teepees large enough to house 2,000 Blackfoot were lined along a concourse three-quarters of a mile long! Henday had seen nothing among the tiny Cree tents to rival the central Blackfoot teepee, which could comfortably seat fifty men!

Henday had been sent west to encourage the Blackfoot to trade directly with the Hudson's Bay Company; without the Cree middlemen, the Blackfoot stood to make more of a profit in terms of trade goods, and the Hudson's Bay Company would have to spend less. But the Blackfoot chief was not moved by promises of greater profit. Although the Blackfoot camped around the shores of Pine Lake and Burnt Lake, they were not a people to stoop to venturing **across** them — unless the water was solidly frozen. A life of hard paddling held no glamour for the already wealthy and thoroughly dry-shod cavalymen of Central Alberta: nothing would persuade them to move out of the plains. The Cree, by contrast, travelled by canoe, setting up villages and camps on the banks of the Red Deer River, including Waskasoo which is Cree for “elk”, and the original name for Red Deer.

During the time of prosperity, the Blackfoot moved freely through the Burnt Lake district, and the valleys echoed with the beat of their drums and their haunting



Indian squaw using travois to transport family possessions.

chants. In the “dog days”, a man could rarely support more than one wife; but at the peak of their prosperity, some Blackfoot had as many as thirty wives. After all, the women processed the hides, and it took much more effort and time to process a hide than it did for a Blackfoot brave to shoot the animal in the first place and bring it home. The more a man took in the hunt, the more wives he needed and the more he could afford to support. In those days, hired hands were unheard of: a brave married his “factory”. The number of wives he herded about with him was a status symbol.

Naturally, the more wives a man had, the more horses he needed to transport them about, and the Blackfoot were always a very mobile tribe. The horse too became a status symbol, and many men boasted herds in excess of 100 head. Now, instead of fleeing before the guns and horses of raiders from other tribes, the Blackfoot actively sought military honours; in fact, before he could marry, a Blackfoot boy had to kill an enemy and carry home his scalp for all to see. The quest for this sort of honour became so intense that at least one Blackfoot reputedly attacked a fellow tribesman — an enemy of course, perhaps a rival in love — and presented his scalp to his fellows rather than return empty-handed from a raid and face social humiliation and continued bachelorhood!

To celebrate their new prosperity and might, thousands of Blackfoot would congregate in the summer for the Sun Dance; sometimes they would meet for this purpose on the shores of Burnt Lake, where the open valley provided an attractive setting for celebration. The original Sun Dance involved voluntary torture in which young men would be suspended from the top of a teepee by thongs fastened to stakes pierced through the flesh of their chests. A typical ritual was the Scalp Dance:

I killed the enemy
Yesterday.
He threatened my people!
Today
My woman carries him
Through camp
On the tip of my spear!

At the peak of Blackfoot power, their drums fell silent. Impregnable now from any armed attack, the Blackfoot succumbed to diseases brought by the white man. In a measles epidemic in 1819 more than one-third of the Blackfoot population died. In 1836, thousands of children died from diphtheria. And in 1837, small pox killed off all but a remnant of the tribe. This final, devastating epidemic was carried up the Missouri by the passengers of the American Fur Company boat, **St. Peter's**. Peigan and Blood traders travelled southeast to meet the boat at Fort Union. The Fort trader, recognizing that certain passengers on the boat had smallpox, tried to hurry the visiting Indians away; but the Indians could not understand his warning and concern, and started trading directly with the infected passengers. They travelled back towards Alberta, and ten days later came down with the disease. By the time the epidemic was over, two-thirds of the remaining Blackfoot peoples were dead: only 3,000 survived. In total, the epidemics had killed more than 15,000 Blackfoot.

The Blackfoot tried to pick up the pieces, but although they rallied in the 1840's the whiskey traders



Mutsinamakan and wife of the Sarcee. Picture by Ernest Brown. Courtesy of Government of Alberta Archives and Miss Gladys Reeves.

and the rapid extinction of the Buffalo from the plains led to further tests of endurance as a people. By the time the Northwest Mounted Police arrived in 1874, the Blackfoot had retreated south of the Red Deer River valley and out of the Burnt Lake district altogether. They suffered from abject poverty; their clothing was ragged, their bodies showed signs of starvation, and their horses and guns were gone. By 1877, when Treaty Number Seven was signed by the Blackfoot chiefs, the Blackfoot were confined to the southern area of the province; Treaty Number Six, which includes the land of the Burnt Lake region, was signed not by the Blackfoot but by the Cree, who received sizable chunks of land for reservations.

The homesteaders were then free to move in to transform the prairie grasslands into rich fields of grain. The buffalo was replaced by herds of cattle. A new form of prosperity, fraught with its own peculiar successes and heartbreaks began with the transformation of the land along the Burnt Lake Trail into one of the richest agricultural districts in the world.

PROGRESS OF RURAL ALBERTA, 1900 to 1977 — by Elmer McKee

Rural conditions in farming have changed tremendously in the past 75 years. From axe and grubhoe to powerful bulldozers and large powerful brush cutters and pilers for clearing land. From two horses and a walking plow, from a 6-foot binder and small threshing machine, to 8 bottom plows, 40-foot cultivators and big combines that thresh 3000 or more bushels per day.

The changes in the rural home have been no less tremendous because of Hydro electric power becoming available to farms. This writer can remember, when a young boy in Red Deer, seeing the lamp lighter coming down the street lighting the lights at each block. I don't know just how this was done. I also remember carrying pails of water from the one pump near the barn to fill the wash boiler to heat water for washing in a tub with a washboard, and later a hand-driven washing machine. I also remember the smelly coal oil lamps, which had to be filled each day and the sooty lamp chimney cleaned and polished. The lanterns for barns and yards were serviced regularly.

Also remembered is the wee house on the prairie, in which you could always find an Eaton catalogue. In the summer flies and mosquitoes congregated there, and

sometimes just to make things interesting a swarm of wasps or hornets would build their nests there. Although this wee house was never heated it was frequently occupied and found on every farm.

In November of 1950 over 100 farmers gathered in the old Kuusamo school and voted to organize what became Sylvan R. E. A. "Rural Electric Association". This Association comprised the school districts of Kuusamo, Marianne, Centerville, and parts of Sylvan Lake, Markerville, Evarts, and Benalto — about 135 farmsteads in all.

At the above mentioned meeting were representatives of Calgary Power, Farm Electric Services of Calgary, local electricians to give information on costs, etc. of wiring our buildings. Also present was the late Mr. Albert Hanson, Secretary of Eckville R.E.A., offering to help in any way he could. At this meeting a board of seven directors was elected to organize an association to get power contracts signed and to procure the necessary easements to enable a power line to cross a farmer's land who was not a member. They also organized groups to clear brush for power lines, etc. These directors were: from Kuusamo district Don Brownlee and Elmer McKee; for Marianne, Stainor Valli, Helge Staudinger; for Centerville, Guy Fitch and Rolf Holmgren. The seventh was the late Bernard Bystrom. From this list they chose Guy Fitch as chairman or president of the board. Elmer McKee was chosen Secretary-Manager. Guy Fitch held his office until 1975, at which time Ben Schamber was elected president. Elmer McKee was Secretary for 26 years till May, 1976, at which time Mrs. Margaret Bystrom was chosen as secretary. Elmer was given a beautiful silver tray for his faithful years of service. Other men serving on the Board of Directors from time to time, were Vern Stinn, Harry Periche, Gust Mannerfeldt, Harry Durward, Wm. Lund, Earl Fitch, Frank Sigurdson, Bert Bystrom.

The signing up of contracts was a lot of work, as many farmers refused for various reasons. They had to be visited several times, but eventually we had 80 odd contracts completed. The district was surveyed and an estimated cost of \$1,000.00 was submitted. The directors considered this estimate too high, so asked for a new estimate of less than \$900.00. Farm Electric Services revised this price to \$905.00, one half of the total cost of the whole project to be cash. Each member had to pay a minimum of \$305.00. This meant some had to pay the full amount of \$905.00. This estimate was accepted by the directors and they proceeded to get farmers signed up. Some 84 signed original contracts. If more would have taken power the cost would have been less. Although the directors visited many two or three times, they still would not sign a contract. The President and Secretary even interviewed the local bank manager on behalf of an odd farmer who needed to borrow the down payment. They were successful too. Although this original cost was high, the directors later voted two refunds; one of \$150.00, later one of \$100.00. This latter came from our "deposit account". These two refunds brought the cost of original signers down to \$655.00, a reasonable amount. The cost today, January 1977, would be from twice to three times this cost.

I believe it is appropriate here to name a member who was never a director, but was important in that he

audited the Association books from 1951 till 1977, doing it for a nominal fee. This man was Mr. George Fitch.

Elmer McKee received no salary the first year, but received \$1.00 per member till 1974, when it was raised to a straight \$150.00 per year. The other directors have served faithfully over the years, donating much time, and never charging for time or mileage. This is why this Association has been able to keep membership dues down to \$2.00 per year. The directors are to be commended for this donation to the Community.

The members and their wives have enjoyed two nice banquets as guests of the association. The first, to celebrate 20 years of electric power, was held on March 17, 1971. The second one was on July 17, 1975, to celebrate 25 years of light and power. At both of these gatherings local talent entertained with readings, solos, duets, and musical instruments, and was enjoyed to the full by all.

The district received electric power just before Christmas, 1951, so many homes were much brighter for the festive season.

Now, January, 1977, the electric power is in 98% of all farmsteads, making rural living equal to our city neighbors.

Gone, but not forgotten by the older generation, are the coal oil lamps and lanterns, the hand pump, hand washing machines and the wee house out back. These are all replaced with modern plumbing, fridges and deep freezers, lights in all buildings and yards, block heaters for cars and tractors. These conveniences are yours today because yesterday our forefathers had a vision and worked to fulfill that vision. Thank you pioneers!

RURAL ELECTRIFICATION IN THE EVARTS DISTRICT

The first public meeting on record of farmers interested in power on their farms, was held in Eckville on July 3, 1947. Mr. F. T. Gale, superintendent of farm electrification for Calgary Power was present. He proposed that all interested farmers form an association.

A provisional board was appointed: Harry Bice, Conдор, Alberta, Albert Hansen, Diamond Valley, Clyde Stauffer, Evarts, Charlie Skocdopole, Hespero and Adolph Roke, Evergreen, Alberta. They were to further investigate and feel out the farmers as to their opinions.

At a meeting in August 1947, Mr. Fitzpatrick, supervisor of Co-op activities for the Provincial Government, explained that an association could get financial assistance for building the power lines.

By December 1947, the board agreed to an association, namely Eckville Rural Electrification Association Limited. Line costs were to be about 12 cents per foot, with a flat rate of \$250.00, from the main line to farmers buildings. By January 5, 1948, 93 farmers had signed contracts, however the Evarts farmers were left out; but with some persuasion they decided to take in two rows of sections on the west side of 38-2-W5. Three-fifths of a mile seemed to be the average distance between farms. The estimated cost was \$645.00 per farmer. By January 12, 116 farmers were paid up.

The power was promised by Christmas 1948, but it was not turned on in the Evarts district until May, 1949. There were 24 meetings held by the Provisional Board

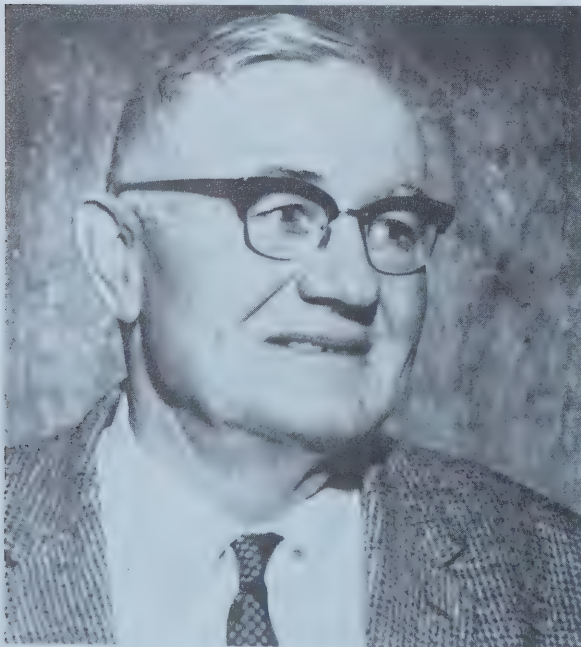
and the Rural Electrification Association Board of directors before the Evarts farmers finally got the power.

The directors spent many hours at meetings, drove many hundred miles signing up contracts and doing organization work. They all gave their time and energy freely and received no money for their work and expenses until February 1951, when the annual meeting, voted them mileage and \$4.00 per meeting.

Clyde Stauffer was appointed chairman of the Eckville Rural Electrification Association board, a position he held for twenty-five years. Albert Hansen was secretary for 17 years. Thus all through the years of organization when the load was the heaviest and all directors were inexperienced, Mr. and Mrs. Hansen took the heavy load.



Directors: Albert Hansen, Stan Burns, Alec Strem, Clyde Stauffer, Ray Niemela, Henry Benecke.



Clyde Stauffer, 1947, President of Alberta Rural Electrification Association.

A year or two later the Sylvan Lake Rural Electrification Association was formed, so the farmers on the east of Evarts were served from that source.

At this writing 100% of the farms in the Evarts district are now using electricity. It is felt by the majority that "Electric power" on the farm is the greatest utility available to the rural population. Proof of that statement is the fact that the power company and government officials estimated in 1947, that the average farmer would use 100 kilowatts per month, but the fact is, in this year 1976, the average farmer is using between 600 and 700 kilowatts per month.

In 1976, Alec Strem of Hespero, is president and Mrs. Marie Bott, of Withrow is secretary. Note: Clyde Stauffer of Evarts, was first president of the Alberta Union of Rural Electrification and held that position for 20 years.

THE RIDGEWOOD RURAL ELECTRIFICATION ASSOC. LTD.

Lackie Bickley and Gordon Stickland decided to look into the possibility of electricity on the farm. After spending a lot of time on it we decided to call a meeting and discuss it with our neighbors, and it was decided to go ahead; this was August, 1948. We formed a board of directors of Cliff Doan, M. H. Pixley, Peter Hofer, Gordon Johnson, Roy Swainson, Paul Chatenay, Gordon Stickland, and our secretary Lachlan Bickley, and with the help of Stuart Anderson of Calgary Power we got started. Burnt Lake heard that Ridgewood, Pine Hill, Fairlands, and Westholm were working on rural electricity, and Grimur Grimson and Oscar Johanson came down to our next meeting and asked if they could come in with us. They did, and Grimur and Oscar were appointed on the board to help with the organization.

After many long meetings, and many miles of driving, plus lots of talking, we got the members signed up, brush cut, surveying done, holes dug, poles up, wire, transformers and meters installed. The Calgary Power crew got the lines ready to the farms and most farms were ready for the electricity which was turned on late in September of 1949. We were all glad to have it after so much work put into it, but we had the misfortune to lose our secretary by a farm accident a week before the electricity was turned on, which took some of the joy out of the great occasion.

HISTORY OF RED DEER WEST REA

Early in 1949 meetings were held to investigate the possibility of forming an association, the aim being to approach Calgary Power to secure a price on servicing this area with power.

In February of 1949 an association was formed and we received our seal.

Officers were:

President — W. F. Harvey, Secretary — F. De Palme, Directors — Ben Roth, Les Edgar, Ray Bertram, H. Thompson, M. Armitage. At an April meeting there was plenty of discussion as to whether there was enough interest among the farmers to continue or not. But after canvassing the area again, it was decided to go ahead at a price of \$875.00 per farm. The brushing for the lines was

done voluntarily and each member was responsible for his own brushing. Tampers were paid 75¢ an hour.

W. F. Harvey was President until 1959, and Les Edgar from 1959 to 1974. Jim Murray was Secretary from 1957.

NATURAL GAS

Another great stride in progress in the area was accomplished with the incorporation of the Burnt Lake Gas Co-op Ltd., March 18, 1969. The first board of directors were Earl Grimson, president; Alf McGhan, vice-president; William Schrueder, secretary treasurer; directors — Earl Fitch, Centerville; Gordon Stickland, Ridgewood; Jack Swainson, Burnt Lake; Fred Johansson, Markerville; Tom Hagerman, Sylvan Lake.

The construction permit was issued May 8, 1969, with the first pipe plowed in shortly after. The first farm was hooked up November 1969. The first area served 100 farms, the Hutterite Colony and hamlet of Markerville.

The Co-op has expanded today (1977) to include the area from Sylvan Lake to Highway 54, west to the hamlets of Spruceview and Dixon, serving approximately 300 customers.

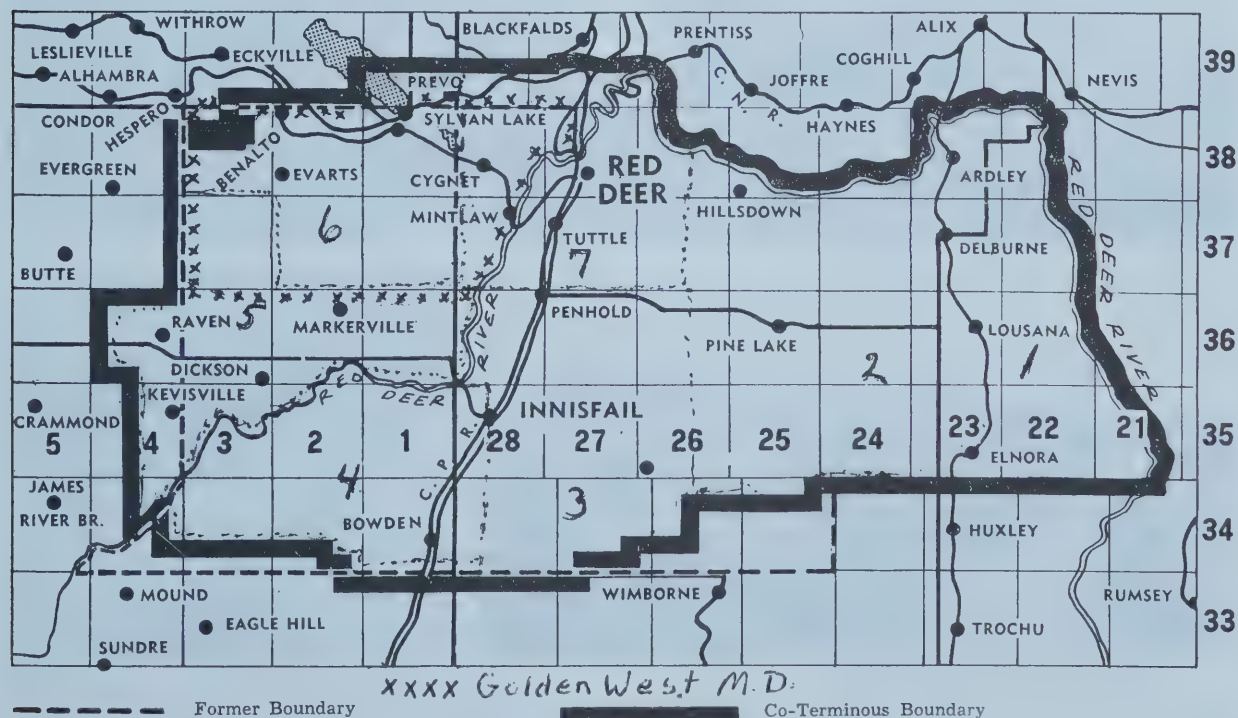
Let us translate the above facts and figures into what it meant to the ordinary man or woman who had spent a good part of their lives without the benefit of electricity and natural gas. Today's generation, having never known any different way of living, cannot ever experience the thrill of simply turning a tap and seeing water flow. Grandma, from her chair in the kitchen, would periodically lean over and turn the tap, just to see if it was really still there. And believe me, she wasn't the only one doing the same thing.

And the lights — not just one or two bright lights from a gas lamp, but at the touch of a switch, every room could be lit. When dressing for an evening out, you could look in the mirror and actually see what you looked like. As one drove home, yardlights dotted the landscape, and it was a delightful pastime, speculating which light belonged to which neighbor. Formerly only the occasional dimly lighted window from a home near the Trail would gleam in the darkness.

The flush toilet changed a way of life. No self respecting male would use our substitute contraptions in the house. That was reserved for the women and children. For the men it was dash out to the "back house" or "parliament buildings". Oh, the names we had for that little house. Hot weather or sub zero, and I mean sub zero fahrenheit scale, was all the same, when the call came out they went. I remember Hubby, in his haste to get back to the kitchen warmth, galloping across the yard, popping in the back door, with pants held up by only one suspender. (Men wore suspenders in those days. We called them braces.) Some men found it hard to make the adjustment. For a year Uncle refused to use the new bathroom. But weather and age took its toll and now he welcomes the comfort of not having to battle snow drifts. When asked what he liked best in his fine new modern home, a good neighbor replied — "the flush toilet".

The installation of natural gas, although welcome, did not pack the same wallop. It is nice to set a thermostat and forget the furnace for the winter. No more coal or ashes or checking the fuel tank. We are very dependent on our public utilities and their service men. We have had fantastic service, but many of us feel a bit more secure with a stand by, the coal heater. Rural life has been completely transformed.

Co-Terminous Boundaries For MD and School Division 1955



LOCAL MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT — BURNT LAKE AREA

The Statute Labor Districts was a form of Local Government from 1893 until 1903. These districts ranged from 36 square miles to 144 square miles and contained at least 50 residents. In 1897 the Local Improvement Ordinance renamed the Statute Labor Districts "Local Improvements Districts." The maximum was seventy-two square miles — i.e., two townships. The taxes, with a statutory limit of \$2.00 per year, were fixed for parcels of up to 160 acres.

The local government of this area was controlled by Local Improvement District #371 19-A-5. Mr. Earl Grimson was the secretary for a time. In 1918 the Municipal District of Golden West No. 371 was formed with the secretary's office in Sylvan Lake. The first secretary of the Municipal District of Golden West was Mr. Archie McCaskill, followed by Mr. Wm. Stringer. The east boundary was the Red Deer River to the City of Red Deer, along the Red Deer River to the north boundary of township 38, range 27, west 4th Meridian. The north boundary of the district was the line between townships 38 and 39, range 27 and 28, west 4th Meridian and range 1-2-3, west of the 5th Meridian. The west boundary was the range line west of range 3. The south boundary was the line between township 36 and 37. There were nine councillors and one secretary. The Reeve was selected by the councillors.



L.I.D. 371 Councillors — 1908. Back — unknown, Earl Grimson, Axel Lindman. Front — Arthur Rogers, unknown, Martin Loken.

In December 1943 the enlarged municipality was formed, named M.D. of Penhold No. 350 with offices in Red Deer. It contained 11 divisions. The east boundary was the Red Deer River. The north boundary was township line between townships 38 and 39. The west boundary was range 3, west of the 5th Meridian. The south boundary was the line between townships 33 and 34. In 1945 it was renamed the M.D. of Red Deer No. 55. In 1955 the co-terminus boundaries were set up, which meant that the large rural school district boundaries



T. to B. 1. Horse drawn road grader — about 1922. 2. Elevator grading with caterpillar "60" and Adamsgrader E. Holmgren on



grader. Geo. Fitch on cat — 1936-37. 3. Arthur Halvorson plowing snow — 1960's and 1970's.

coincided with municipal district boundaries. The divisions were reduced to seven. Some alterations were made to the boundaries in some areas to satisfy the residents' desire to belong to certain school districts.

On January 1, 1963 the County of Red Deer No. 23 was formed. The municipal council remained at seven councillors. The school committee included the seven councillors plus one trustee from each town and one trustee from each village within the municipal boundaries. Municipal and school government is the same today. The Reeve and Deputy Reeve are selected by the members of the council. The chairman and vice-chairman of the school committee are selected by the members of the school committee. Councillors and school committee members serve a three year term, while Reeves and the chairman are appointed yearly.

THE RED DEER FEEDERS ASSOCIATION

The Red Deer F. U. A. Local 1026 led by president Dave Larratt, sponsored the formation of the Red Deer Feeders Association, in the summer of 1959. The local undertook this project by approving a resolution presented by Jim Braithwaite and seconded by Glen Armitage. Our territory included the area from the Penhold township line on the south to the Blindman River on the north and from No. 21 Highway to Benalto on the west. The original board of directors were: Fred Bolze, John Morton, Gordon Towers, George Belich, Glen Armitage, John Lindman, Bill Olson and Jim Braithwaite.

John Purdie was the first supervisor, followed by Jim Braithwaite and Reg Newton. The presidents have been — Glen Armitage, Don Morrison, Bill Janssen and Robert Purdie. The following men have served as secretary-treasurer — Ray Carlson, Nels Nystrom, Allen Stewart and Ralph Sveinson.

In 1967 our west boundry was extended to include the Rocky Mountain House area. The volume of business approximately \$200,000 in the early years of our existence has steadily increased and now exceeds \$600,000 per year.

THE RED DEER — LACOMBE FARM MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION

This association had its beginnings in 1957. The district agriculturists, Bob Price, of Red Deer and Walter McNary of Lacombe played a prominent role in its establishment. They did this as a matter of self defence because several farmers were coming to them for advice on how to make their various farm projects more profitable. There were no answers but they advised that the requested information lay buried in our own accounts and that if we would make this information available to them and to each other, the data could then be analyzed and recommendations made.

In the late fall of 1957 about a dozen with pioneering spirits got together to compare notes and much useful information was gathered. In 1958 we decided to make our group into a formal organization with a \$10 membership fee. This was to enable us to hire a qualified person to analyze the information gathered and to make recommendations based on that information. This was the first Farm Management group in Alberta and the second one in all of Canada.

By 1959 the value of the Farm Management Groups

became apparent to the Provincial Department of Agriculture in Alberta and other provinces. Groups were established in all agricultural regions of Canada and the lead given by our group has since expanded into the present Canfarm System of computerized accounting and analysis.

The original members were — L. P. Ditzler, Lacombe, president, J. D. Braithwaite, secretary, Glen Armitage, Ernie McEachern, Doug Corrigan, Joe and Pearl Marshall, Innisfail. Mr. and Mrs. John Lents Lacombe. Unfortunately the original group was so informal no list of names exist and we are unable to give the names of the other 4 or 5 members from Lacombe. The work of the secretary was made much easier than would be expected by the hard work of Bob Price's secretary, Jill Wiggins (Mrs. Bill Edgar) who took care of the duplication, typing and mailing services of the association in its formative years.

Besides providing some of the foresight and initiative to spark a national program, this group made one other worthwhile contribution. At that time, the farm management specialists in North America considered the various levels of efficiency to be an important factor in evaluating a farm business and its management. However, a brief, based on observations and examples given by Jim Braithwaite and put into technical terms by our leaders, was presented to the Conference of Farm Management Specialists in the U.S.A. in 1960, pointing out that this was an inaccurate assumption and that it should be disregarded. The brief was accepted as being correct and this cleared away the last remaining contradiction, allowing farm analysis and recommendations to be precise for all sizes and types of farms. The acceptance of the brief brought a deserved recognition of the efforts of the group and their leaders in the Counties of Red Deer and Lacombe. When the original group created a more formal organization the membership was expanded to 31 members and later on to 61 which gave us a very suitable cross section of farms to work with. With the development of the streamlined Canfarm system, our association became redundant and was allowed to pass away in the late 1960's.

KEY TO BRANDS

- R — Right
- L — Left
- R — Ribs
- S — Shoulder
- T — Thigh
- H — Hip
- St — Stifle
- W.A. — Whole Animal
- N — Neck
- H — Horse brand
- J — Jaw
- ◁ Lazy A
- ⌘ Monogram
- ↓ Anchor
- Y Oarlock
- Bar
- ∧ Half diamond
- △ Rafter
- ⊞ Reversed E
- ⌒ Quarter Circle
- Bottle brand

Shady Nook

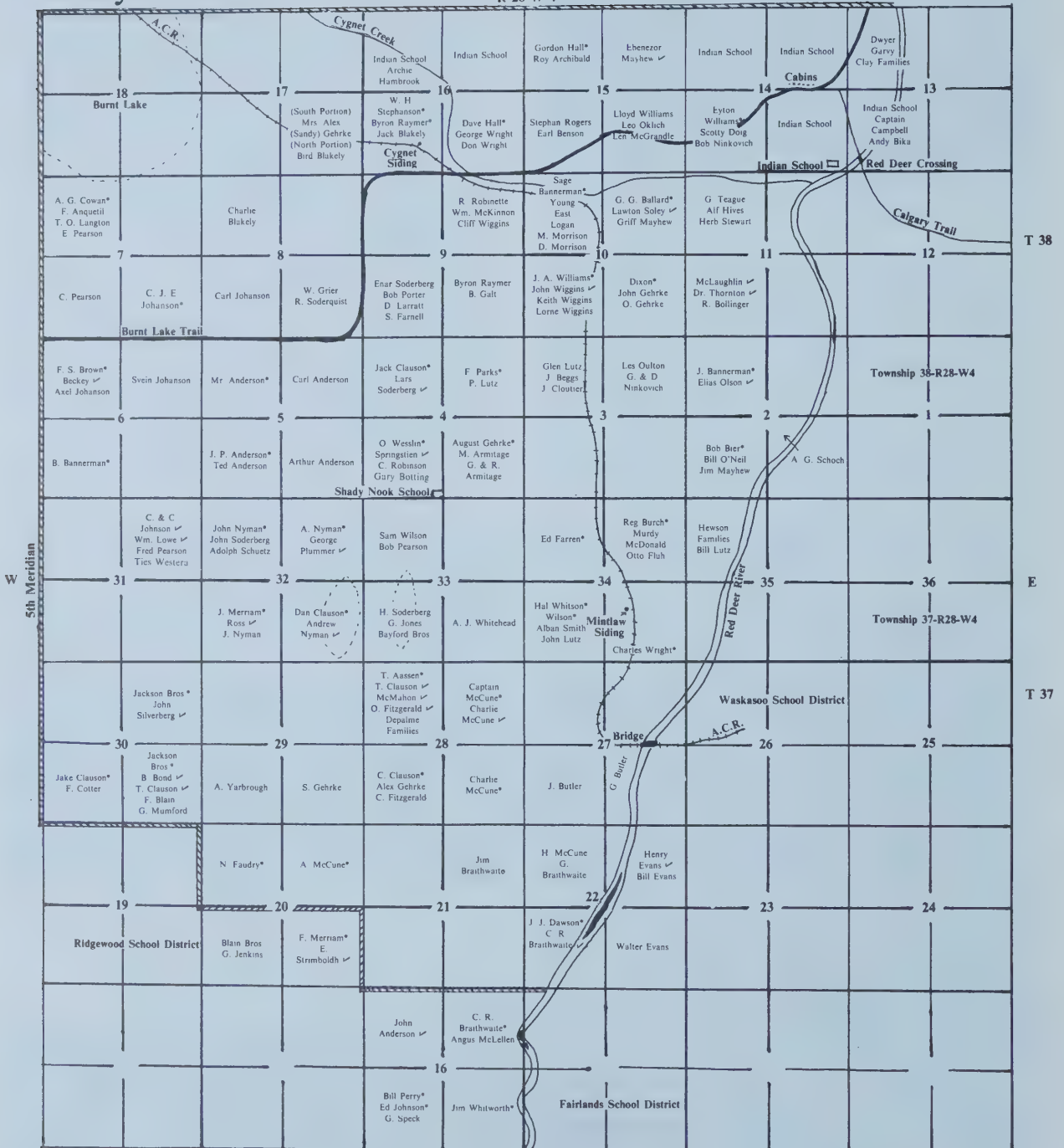
N

* Denotes Homesteader

✓ Early Resident

R 28 W 4

Poplar Ridge School District



S

SHADY NOOK



SHADY NOOK SCHOOLS

In 1903 there were several children in Shady Nook of school age. Discussions took place on advisability of building a school. Professor Charles Wright, George Ross, John Silverberg and Captain McCune took the lead in having the Shady Nook School District established. Trustees were Wright, Ross and Silverberg. Ross was Chairman of the Board. A loan of \$700.00 was obtained from the government. The school was built in the summer of 1904 and was ready for use that fall. The official seal of the district reads Shady Nook School District No. 1064 Alta. North West Territories.

In the early days the teacher was also the janitor. As in most early school districts, the school became the district centre for church and recreational activities and probably the highlight of the year was the annual Christmas concert.

Most of the teachers who taught at Shady Nook prior to the mid 1930's took room and board in the August Gehrke's home. Several of the teachers who came here found it a real hardship to live and teach in a pioneer community. Some stayed only one quarter of a year, others half a year. As the years passed and conditions and living standards improved, our teachers stayed longer. During the depression and war years, several teachers remained here two or three years. Naomi Johanson was the first to hold the job for three terms.

The original school was used until June 1937. A new school was built at a cost of \$3,750.00 and Grade nine was taught for the first time.

In 1939 the original school was modernized. Grades 7, 8, 9, and 10 were taught in it. Loring Pollock was the teacher hired to teach the senior grades. Pupils for Grade 9 and 10 came here from Ridgewood, Burnt Lake and Poplar Ridge.

During the Christmas holidays in 1939 the original

school caught fire and burned to the ground. The Board of the Red Deer School Division called a joint meeting with the Shady Nook School Board on New Year's day to make arrangements to continue classes in 1940.

The basement of the school built in 1937 was pressed into use as a classroom. There were 59 students and two teachers in the building. It was literally bursting at the seams. Student enrollment reached a peak of 63 students in 1941.

In January of 1940, a new school was started on the foundation of the original school and it was ready for the pupils from the basement in April 1940. All school records from 1906 through 1939 were lost in the fire.

A teacherage was placed at the school grounds in 1942.

Eventually, the second school was sold to the Red Deer School Division and they moved it to the Tindastol district, about three miles east of Markerville.



Shady Nook school children about 1910. Back Row — Sam Gehrke, Keith Wiggins, Bob Gehrke, Helga Anderson, Naomi Johanson, Mary Johanson, Olga Anderson. Front Row: Philip Anderson, Carl Anderson, Arthur Lowe, Francis Parks, unknown, Pearl Wiggins, Dorothy McLeod, Nellie Lowe.

For a while after the establishment of the County School of River Glen in Red Deer, some of our students went to Red Deer and some to Shady Nook. It seemed as though most of the best teachers were taking jobs in the urban centres and our ratepayers gradually became disappointed with the educational opportunities at Shady Nook. In 1957, the district voted in favor of closing our school and bussing students to the River Glen school at Red Deer.



The two Shady Nook schools. Early 40's.



Shady Nook school children, 1928-29. Miss Naomi Johanson, teacher at front of class.



Shady Nook school spring 1938. Front Row — Vivian Davis, George Soderberg, Iva Lutz, Phyllis Johanson, Bill McCune. Second Row — Ebba Davis, Mary Johanson, Lloyd Pearson, Ella Nyman, Dorothy Braithwaite, Isobel Silverberg, Dorothy Lutz. Third Row — Olive Davis, Virginia Blain, Lily Gehrke, Bill Jones, Mary McCune, Kay Butler, Doreen Blakely, Ruby Jones, Eva Braithwaite, Margaret Davis, Alice Blain, Marie Davis. Back Row — John Butler, Jim Braithwaite, Wayne Davis, Peter Morrison, John Braithwaite, Don Morrison, Manly Blakely, Tom Braithwaite, Mervin Davis, Bud Mayhew, George Braithwaite, Arvid Whitehead, Jack Blakely, Ragner Mannerfeldt, Bruce Simpson (teacher) far back.



Shady Nook school children, 1946. Teacher is Francis Wilson (Hewson) far right.



Shady Nook School, 1944. Front Row — Morlie Johanson, Malcolm Morrison, Bill Lutz. Second Row — Joyce Oulton, Gail Hewson, Joyce Johanson, Bernice Anderson. Third Row — unknown, Carol McCune, Barbara Anderson, Wayne Lutz, Peter Schmidt, Dan Lutz. Back Row — Alice Johanson, Marie Anderson, Marianne Barr, Isobel Morrison, Dene Morrison, unknown, Phyllis Johanson, Bob Gehrke, Charlie Johanson, Don McLellan, John McLellan, Bill Gehrke, Rex Armitage, John Armitage.



John McLellan, Bob Gehrke, Bill Gehrke, John Armitage, Bill McCune, Rex Armitage, Charlie Johanson.

The following is a list of those who taught school at Shady Nook. Due to the loss of our records, we are now unable to list what year or years some of them taught here.

- Miss Pierce — 1904
- Miss Dayfoot — two half year terms
- Mr. Hull
- E. C. Cameron — one month
- George Martin
- Miss Carswell — married Steve Biswanger
- Mrs. King
- Miss Ettec
- Miss Allen
- Jennie Sealy — Mrs. Al McCune
- Carrie Hope
- Miss Curr
- Olga Soderman — later taught high school in Red Deer for many years
- 1919 - Irene Ross — Salary \$840 per annum
- Ruth Slopht
- Edna Sproule
- Stephen Rogers — 2 years
- 1921 - Agnes Comfort
- 1922 - Gladys Jones
- 1923 - Mrs. A. W. Martin — nee Irene Madison
- 1924 - Margaret McIntosh
- 1925 - Edith Cody — later married F. Dallaire
- 1926 - Wilha Watt
- 1926 - Inez Lamb
- 1927 - Dorothy Collier
- 1928 - Margaret McConnell
- 1929-31 Naomi Johanson
- 1932-34 Sylvia Perry
- 1934-35 Adelyne Stephenson
- 1935-37 Bruce Simpson
- 1938-40 Dave McCutcheon
- 1939-41 Loring Pollock Grades 7, 8, 9 & 10 Two schools
- 1940-44 Henry McCullough
- 1941 - Agnes Anderson
- 1942-43 Agnes Anderson
- 1942-43 Gordon Mathias
- 1944 - Agnes Anderson — High School closed
- 1945-46 Francis Wilson — now Mrs. Les Hewson
- 1947-48 Agnes Anderson
- 1949 - Mrs. Henry Landry
- 1950-51 Mrs. G. Redel
- 1952 - Olive Smith — nee Olive Johanson
- 1953 - Susan Thachuk
- 1954 - Mrs. Blachut



A. R. Gibson, school inspector, by an old school pump.



Shady Nook School 1949. Back Row — Joyce Johanson, Mrs. Landry (teacher) Barbara Anderson, Alice Johanson, Dene Morrison, Marianne Barr, Herb Oulton, Charlie Johanson, Wayne Lutz, Dan Lutz, Morlie Johanson. Second Row — Geraldine Mayhew, Margaret Cliffe, Carol Anderson, Bernice Anderson, Glenda Wiggins, Sharon Lutz, Faith Hambrook, Jill Wiggins. Front Row — Buddy Hambrook, Jack Wiggins, Jack Anderson, Jim Mayhew, Bill Lutz, Malcolm Morrison, Kenny Landry, Ronald Johanson.

- 1955 - Mrs. Adams
- 1956 - Mrs. Norman Layden
- 1957 - Mrs. Dobi

DIPLOMA



Awarded by

The
Department of Education
of the Province of Alberta



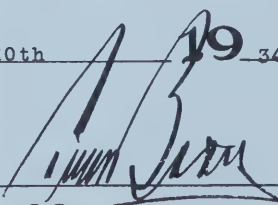
SHADY NOOK

School

For the Best Exhibit of
School Work at
the School Fair

Held at RED DEER

on September 20th 1934


Minister of Education

No. 48-34.

DECLARATION OF OFFICE

I, Paul Anderson declare that I am

a British subject, that I am an elector of Shady Nook S.D. No. 1064
that I can read and write, and that I hereby accept the office of trustee to which I have been elected

(or appointed) in Shady Nook S.D. No. 1064 and that
I will, to the best of my ability, honestly and faithfully discharge the duties devolving on me as such
trustee.

Dated at Shady Nook Alberta, this 31 day of January 1939
Paul Anderson
TRUSTEE.

SOLD BY E. N. MOYER CO. LTD.
Edmonton, Alberta
Toronto, Winnipeg, Saskatoon



Shady Nook school children, 1954. Back Row — Carol Anderson, Gerry Mayhew, Margaret Cliffe, Sharon Lutz, Glenda Wiggins, Jim Mayhew, Jack Anderson, Larry Blachut, Mrs. Blachut (teacher). Middle Row — Connie Anderson, Sylvia Mayhew, Marlene Fisher, Jill Wiggins, Shirley Anderson, Lorne Wiggins, August Feller, Cliff Wiggins, Jimmy Feller. Front Row — Heather Cliffe, Sandra Livingston, Dick Gehrke, Ken Gillette, Merle Blachut, Andy Cliffe.

INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL

Three and one half miles upstream from the City of Red Deer, on the west bank of the Red Deer River stands the remains of the old Indian Industrial School. The purpose of the school was to ease the period of transition for

the Indian children, giving them education and training for the new era that was rapidly approaching. Little did anyone know that one of its students would eventually become the Lieutenant-Governor of Alberta! The school was founded by the Mission Board of the Methodist Church and a start was made in 1890 with the Rev. John Nelson as the first principal. He was appointed in 1892.

The Federal Government granted the Methodist Church 400 acres of land for this purpose. The contract was let to a Calgary firm; Christopher White of the Clearview district, who had been a building contractor in Winnipeg worked on the building. The present buildings were started in 1892. The buildings, when completed, resembled a small settlement. It consisted of a large barn and workshop, house for the principal and about six small houses for the staff. The large stone building was used as the school house. Another large brick building was used as a dormitory and living quarters for the children. Up until 1902 the school was called "The Red Deer Indian School". From 1903 until its closing in 1919 it was called "The Red Deer Industrial Institute".

Rev. John Nelson had 150 children in residence. The children were taught religion and the rudiments of education. The boys were instructed in farm work, carpentry and blacksmithing and the girls in domestic work. It seems a pity that with such a fine start, the leaders did not expand the course to encourage the Indian children to become leaders in other fields, perhaps more to their liking.



Main buildings, Indian school, as they were at the time of the arrival of the Hebrideans.

The first farm instructor was Mr. Loughheed, followed by Mr. McLellan, Tom Ellis, Alf Hives and George Owens. The late Tom Ellis had been a member of the R.N.W.M.P. detachment stationed at Fort Normandeau. He was also appointed vice principal of the school and he and his bride took up residence in one of the small cottages. Rev. A. Barner succeeded Rev. Nelson. Rev. J. Woodsworth was the last principal.

The staff was chosen by the Mission Board of the Methodist Church and paid by the Federal Government. The children for the most part were of Cree parents who had not entered Treaty and therefore no provision had been made for their education. The children did not take kindly to restricted quarters and education and were very lonely. The parents missed their children too and would camp close to the school. Usually when a child left the school he never came back.

A severe epidemic of scarlet fever hit the school. A little south of the school on a knoll overlooking the river stood a little fenced-in plot, the mounds marked by wooden crosses. These wooden crosses have all disappeared, and the mounds have been obliterated with time and perhaps even the tragedy of their death has been forgotten.

In 1898 there was great excitement at the Industrial School over the disappearance of a Miss Weir, one of the teachers. She had apparently gone to her room as usual at night, and when she did not appear the next morning it was found that her bed had not been slept in. Nothing was missing from her room except the clothes she was

last seen in. Tracks were found to the river, but none returning. Search parties were organized in which settlers helped and the country was searched for miles around. The river was dragged, police in other provinces and in the U.S. were notified, but her disappearance was shrouded in mystery. Years later, a missionary who had known the girl found her happily married and living in British Columbia.

In the spring of 1919 the Industrial School land and buildings were sold to the Soldiers Settlement Board to be used as a training farm for the returned soldiers intending to take up farms. This project was abandoned a year later and the school remained closed until 1922. At this time it was used as a distributing centre for immigrants brought out from their native lands by Father McDonell. Since that time the property has been sold to private owners. It seems a sad loss that no records are available to follow these students' progress to their lifetime careers. Only one notable name comes to mind, that of Ralph Stienhaur, the present Lieutenant-Governor of Alberta, appointed in 1974.

The Indian School acquired more land than the original 400 acres. The title to the original land grant was dated December 1, 1890. On September 24, 1894 they were issued a title to the South $\frac{1}{2}$ of 20-38-28-W4 and on October 24, 1894 they were issued a title to the North $\frac{1}{2}$ of 16-38-28-W4.

North-west Territories,
Red Deer Industrial School,
Red Deer, Alta., July 24, 1900.



Some of the farm buildings at the Indian school, 1923.

The Honourable

The Superintendent General of Indian Affairs,
Ottawa.

Sir,—I have the honour to submit my annual report of the above school for the year ended June 30, 1900.

Location.—This school is situated on section 14, range 28, township 38, west of the 4th meridian, and about three miles west of the village of Red Deer.

Land.—The land owned by the school consists of three quarters of the above section. A section of school land just south of our land is held by permission of the Department of the Interior as a pasture; also six hundred and forty acres are reserved as hay lands, but at present they are almost all under water, and are not likely to be of much use for some years. The quality of the soil in connection with the school is first-class, but very difficult to cultivate on account of its being partly covered with bush and scrub.

Buildings.—The buildings are as follows: stone building, 48 x 64 feet, with wing containing the following rooms: basement, in which is found the laundry, 24 x 24 feet; drying-room, 10 x 12 feet; bake-house, with bake oven underground, 12 x 13 feet; girls' bath-room 9 x 11 feet; girls' lavatory, 10 x 12 feet; furnace-room, 15 x 17 feet; wood-room, 15 x 15 feet.

Ground floor contains bed-room for inspector or other official, 10 x 14 feet; reception-room, 10 x 18 feet; principal's office, 12 x 18 feet; small room used by any Indians who may visit as a council-room, 10 x 12 feet; sitting-room for staff, 15 x 15 feet; dining-room, 18 x 42 feet; kitchen and pantry, 19 x 28 feet.

On the first floor are four private bed-rooms for staff, each 10 x 12 feet; girls' sick-room, 15 x 15 feet; sleeping-rooms for girls, one 20 x 22 feet, one 16 x 22 feet; bath-room for staff, 9 x 9 feet; girls' wash-room, 7 x 8 feet; sewing-room, 16 x 26 feet.

SESSIONAL PAPER No. 27

The attic is unfinished and is unused.

Brick Building.—This building is 42 x 48 feet, and is used by the boys. It contains a basement, in which are found the furnace, closets, bath and wash-room.

The ground floor contains boys' play-room, 28 x 30 feet; sick-room, 15 x 16 feet.

The first floor has two bed-rooms, one 10 x 12 feet, one 10 x 10 feet, and boys' sleeping-room, 39 x 41 feet.

The second floor consists of the school-room, 36 x 42 feet.

The outbuildings are as follows:—

Dwelling-house for principal, 30 x 32 feet, with kitchen, 12 x 20 feet.

Dwelling-house, 18 x 24 feet, with kitchen, 12 x 12 feet, occupied by the assistant principal and the carpenter instructor.

Dwelling-house, 18 x 24 feet, with kitchen, 12 x 12 feet, occupied by the farm instructor.

Blacksmith-shop, at present used as a store-room.

Carpenter shop, 18 x 26 feet.

Ice-house, 16 x 16 feet.

Pig-pen, 26 x 30 feet.

Well-houses, one 10 x 10 feet, one 6 x 6 feet.

Cow-stable, 26 x 110 feet.

Horse-stable, 24 x 50 feet.

Drive-shed, 14 x 50 feet.
 Hen-house, 18 x 18 feet.
 Dairy, 16 x 16 feet.
 Store-room, 12 x 18 feet.
 Engine-house, 11 x 11 feet.
 Two closets, each 10 x 16 feet.

Accommodation.—We have accommodation for ninety pupils and a staff of principal and ten members.

Attendance.—The attendance has not been what it should be during the year, the average has been sixty, or twenty-nine less than the number permitted by the department. Recruiting for these schools is becoming a serious matter.

THE REPORT OF REV. ARTHUR BARNER, PRINCIPAL OF THE RED DEER INDUSTRIAL INSTITUTE, RED DEER, ALTA., FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 1912.

Accommodation.—There is accommodation for 75 pupils and a staff of 10.

Attendance.—The year began with 69 names on the roll and 66 in actual attendance.

The record of the year is as follows:—

	Pupils.
Number on the roll	69
Admitted during the year	13
Total	82
Discharged	13
Total number now on the roll	69
Total number now in attendance	68

Class-room Work.—The half-time system is carefully followed, and a very successful year has been spent in this department. It is safe to say that a larger measure of progress has been accomplished than in any of four previous years.

At the close of the year the grading of the pupils is as follows:—

	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Standard I	31	14	45
Standard II	7	5	12
Standard III	0	2	2
Standard IV	5	5	10
Total	43	26	69

Mr. F. J. Dodson proves an excellent teacher.

Farm and Garden.—Last season we had 242 acres of land under cultivation:—

Fall wheat, 30 acres; oats, 90 acres; barley, 10 acres; mixed greenfeed, 52 acres; timothy, 50 acres; potatoes, 8 acres; and garden, 2 acres.

The yield was 1,200 bushels oats, 300 bushels barley, 32 loads of timothy, 1,000 bushels of potatoes and a good yield of garden produce. The mixed and greenfeed, and the oat and wheat acreage, which was unfit for threshing, yielded 130 loads feed; of the oat crop only 34 acres were fit for threshing. No fall wheat was threshed.

Between June 22 and September 22, 1911, our crop was seriously hailed, frozen and snowed under, which will serve to explain the unsatisfactory figures above.

THE HEBRIDEANS

Father McDonell was a Catholic priest in Canada who undertook to help his kinsmen find a better way of life. He decided to encourage them to come to Canada. When he went home to the Hebrides Islands of Scotland, to put his plan into operation, he found some move was

already afoot. McDonell was asked to take charge of a group of 350 people, many of whom did not have enough money for their ticket to Canada. He had meager resources and it was imperative to secure help soon. The Immigration Department of the Canadian Government, the Colonization Department of Great Britain, the Soldiers Settlement Board and several Catholic priests in various parts of Canada co-operated in McDonell's project.

This large group of Hebrideans was brought to Canada. Farms were found for many of them, jobs for others, and eventually all were settled. McDonell's immigrants had been dispersed to all provinces in Canada. It proved to be a difficult task to look after such a large group at one time, so they brought in smaller groups. This grew into a major project. Those involved planned to find homes and jobs for 5000 families.

Many of these people were fisher folk with no experience in farming. It was realized they should have some training. The Soldiers Settlement Board had acquired the Red Deer Indian School in 1919 to train returned soldiers who wished to become farmers. It was put to good use.

Father R. A. McDonald of Red Deer agreed to look after some groups of Scottish immigrants. In the spring of 1922, 35 families came to the Indian School. They were soon found farms and jobs. In 1922, those involved in the Scottish Immigration Scheme agreed to provide 14 cottages for temporary housing. The cottages were to be placed between Edmonton and Red Deer. Early in the spring of 1923 a second group of new settlers arrived at the school and late that spring the third group came to the Indian School. The third group were from three Isles of the Hebrides, Barra, South Uist and Benbecula. This group consisted of 21 families, 14 single men, and 2 single women.

It was too late for them to plant crops that year so five acres of green feed were planted on the School farm for each man so they would have winter feed for any livestock they might acquire that summer.

About one-third of this group, after a short stay here, left for Westlock, Alta. Approximately another third worked and farmed in the area until 1929, then left en masse for Clondonald. The balance farmed in Central Alberta for many years.

During 1924 other groups of settlers from Scotland and Northern Ireland were housed here temporarily. Group immigration in this area ended that year and the Indian School was later sold to private individuals.

THE COTTAGES

The groups involved in the project to settle Scottish immigrants decided in 1922 to build 14 cottages each 20-foot square. They were to be placed between Edmonton and Red Deer. Nine of them were built along the Burnt Lake Trail across the hill and down the east slope on the north side of the road, north-west of the Indian school. One well with a pump near the middle of the row of cottages provided water for everyone. The well, drilled by Larry Telning, is 150 to 160 feet deep.

The cottages were in use by the early spring of 1923. The smell of green wood burning was familiar to many people travelling by. It would be interesting to know who



Hebrideans starting the voyage from Stornoway to Alberta.

supplied the wood and why dry wood was not used instead!

After the end of group migration in 1924 the cottages were sold one by one. Einar Einarson with the help of Oscar Johanson and Fred and Grimur Grimson moved one to his farm. This cottage is now expanded and forms part of the Frank Dallaire home. One cottage was purchased by Angus McDonald of Ridgewood.

Jack Roth a brother of Joe Roth Sr. moved a cottage to his quarter. It sat near the railway track east of the present location of Versaline Equipment Ltd. One cottage had been moved onto a parcel of school land, N $\frac{1}{2}$ of 16-38-28-w4th for the use of their renters. It was purchased by William Woof, formerly of Evarts. At the time of purchase, he was living in Poplar Ridge. Woofs lived in this cottage for about 15 years.

We have been informed that one cottage was moved to the Hillsdown district and one to Cumberland, (east of Hillsdown) but a check with residents of those districts has not confirmed that this is true.

Stanley Abbot of the Springvale school district had a cottage moved to his quarter, on the west slope of the divide hill. This quarter is on the east boundary of the Springvale district and it is probable that our informer is unfamiliar with the rural districts. Mr. Abbot had the misfortune of losing his cottage in a fire that burned it to the ground.

The last cottage remaining by the trail provided a home for an elderly Irish gentleman for a couple of years and was purchased in 1937 by Roy Archibald of Poplar Ridge. Mr. Archibald converted it to a barn. The old pump stood alone on the side hill for several years, as if to remind us of what once was.

A retired Irishman, short, stocky and grey, lived alone in the last cabin to remain of the nine that were along the Burnt Lake Trail, by the Indian school. He built a little straw barn in the trees by the water run, northwest of the cabin, for a cow and a saddle horse. We have no recollection of this man after the fall of 1936. We don't know where he went to and have been unable to find anyone who can recall his name.

RED CROSS — by Edna Butler

The first organization for women in Shady Nook was the Red Cross formed in 1939. It continued through the war years until 1945. Mrs. Kathleen Butler was an active president.

The ladies made Christmas cakes one year, which were sent to the servicemen overseas. They did knitting and sewing for the servicemen. The ladies tried to make orderly caps but couldn't figure out how they were done. Pete Lutz managed to figure that out so he was given the job of putting them together!



Shady Nook honour roll.

One time when the ladies had made arrangements to have a bake sale in town, the roads were very icy. But even so, all the baking got to the bake sale. Mrs. Kathleen Butler bicycled 3 ½ miles to one meeting from her place. There were collections of scrap iron and old bones to be recycled. They called it the scrap drive.

The ladies remember making a turkey supper for the returned men, served at the Shady Nook school. The boys that were there were John Butler, George Braithwaite, Tom Braithwaite, Jack Moore, Pete Lutz, Pete Morrison and numerous others. Ladies that were in the Red Cross were: Mrs. Anne Gehrke; Mrs. Ena Blake-ly; Mrs. Charlie McCune; Mrs. Bert McCune; Mrs. Martin Armitage; Miss Bertha Raymer; Thelma Gehrke; Mrs. Sid Hewson; Mrs. Charlie Blakely; Mrs. Florence MacLellan; Mrs. Al McCune; Mrs. Kathleen Butler; Mrs. Helen Wiggins; Mrs. Malcolm Morrison; Mrs. Ben Hewson; Mrs. Madge Lutz and Mrs. Hazel Braithwaite.

HISTORY OF THE SHADY NOOK F.W.U.A. — by Edna Butler

The organization meeting of the Shady Nook Farm Women's Union was held at the home of Mrs. Angus McLellan in 1946. Mrs. Hazel Braithwaite was elected president and Mrs. Helen Wiggins secretary. Mrs. Annie Gehrke was our first delegate to the F.U.A. convention.

For the next 21 years we had an active local, our largest membership being in 1960 when 21 ladies paid their membership fees. To raise money we had suppers, card parties, bingo games and dances at the Shady Nook school. One of our annual events was a talent night which was held on or near March 17 and was always enjoyed by all. We had many raffles including a quilt made by the ladies and sweaters knit by Mrs. Hazel Braithwaite. The raffles were usually combined with a bazaar and tea.

We catered to the dinners at Olds for a number of years when the F.U.A. conventions were held there. We had bake sales and catered to a few weddings, U.F.A. and Co-op dinners as well as serving lunch at Alberta Wheat Pool and U.G.G. meetings held in our school, and farm sales in the district.

The F.W.U.A. cook books have proven very popular and many were sold through the years up until the present day.

We organized a local of the U.F.A. Co-op within the Shady Nook local. This enabled members to buy at a discount. We believe we were the only F.W.U.A. local to do this.

Our projects were many and varied through the years. We bought cocoa for a hot drink for the school children at Shady Nook. We sponsored a garden club for school children interested in growing a garden and a prize was given for the best garden. This was readily adopted and put into practice by other locals.

In 1953 we started giving a memorial scholarship to the student achieving the highest marks in Grade 8. Some of the winners were Carol Anderson, Sharon Lutz and Jim Mayhew. This was discontinued in 1957 when Shady Nook school was closed.

When it was decided to build the Junior F.U.A.'s Goldeye Lake Camp west of Nordegg, our local donated \$100.00 to the building fund. We sponsored one or two young people to go to Goldeye Lake camp, paying the full fee for one or half the fee for two.

One of our favorite charities was Woods Christian Home in Calgary. We bought flannelette and made py-jamas and flour sacks to make pillow slips for the home, and gave an annual donation in December of each year. We also sewed uniforms for the Unitarian Service. We helped make six ladies at Ponoka Hospital a little happier by remembering them with gifts at Christmas and birthdays.

At our monthly meetings, we collected pennies for friendship which were sent to the Associated Country Women of the World. Mrs. Hazel Braithwaite was elected by the F.W.U.A. to represent them at the A.C.W.W. conference in Toronto. She led the women's delegation to the A.C.W.W. conference in Edinburgh, Scotland in 1959 and to Australia in 1962. On her return, she spoke and showed slides on her trips.

Mrs. Edna McKinnon was appointed convener of Indian work for our local. For many years she was a diligent worker and with the help of the other members, she sent many hundreds of pounds of clothing to needy Indian families at Heimsburg, Rocky Mountain House and Fort Vermillion. The clothing was all washed and mended before being sent. Three sewing machines were sent to Mrs. Isac Beaver at Rocky Mountain House in October, 1960. Money was raised through the sale of aprons and pot holders and sent to the Indian Associa-



Standing, L-R — Irene Robinson (Bayford), Chris Mayhew, Ruth Livingston, Mrs. Saunders (Mrs. McKinnon's mother), Dorothy Gillette, Amy Pearson, Edna McKinnon, Florence Anderson, Eva Anderson. Sitting — Arvida Fisher, Mrs. Blachut, Helen Wiggins.

tion. Remaining material was sent to the Indians for quilt making. On one outing, some of the ladies went to the Sunchild Mission and saw how the Indians lived. Mrs. McKinnon carried on her Indian work until 1965 when she was forced to give it up for health reasons. Remaining material was turned over to Mrs. Tommy Teague of the Balmoral district.

A benefit dance was held for Mr. Bob Ninkovich and a concert was put on by the Dorcas Society and held at the Shady Nook school for Kenneth Butler when he had polio. Help was given to Mr. and Mrs. Freeman by a money donation when their house burned down in February, 1959. A donation was given to the Crossroads Community when a farmer lost his life in a root cellar. We made a donation to a farmer in India to help buy a plow. Two donations were sent to the Parlbly Scholarship fund in memory of Fred Pearson and Dave Larratt. Our local also gave annual donations to the following: Cancer, Heart fund, Institute for the Blind, Salvation Army, Polio, Arthritis and Red Cross.

It was decided to give a silver spoon to members with perfect attendance at our meetings. Mrs. Edna Butler received five of them. Our meetings were made interesting by guest speakers. Miss Ruth Pearson demonstrated many different crafts. Our home economist gave demonstrations on food preparation and fabrics. We had demonstrations on skin care by a cosmetic studio. Mrs. Pat Brock spoke to us on the Canadian Association of Consumers and Miss Vera Russell on welfare in the districts of Red Deer.

In February, 1963 the Shady Nook Community Club took over the responsibility of buying wedding, farewell and anniversary gifts. The F.W.U.A. carried on with the "Sunshine" sending gifts and cards to the sick in our community.

In April, 1967 it was decided to discontinue our meetings until October, but due to lack of interest at that time, our F.W. U.A. local was disbanded.

The Shady Nook Community Club is still very active in the community and has also taken over the "Sunshine".

THE U. F. A. and F. U. A.

The U. F. A. Local was organized in Shady Nook on July 24th, 1933. The main purpose of this local was to

permit the bulk purchase of coal and binder twine. The orders for these commodities were combined with those of the Burnt Lake U. F. A. and deliveries were accepted at the Cygnet Siding. This local was active only in 1933 and 34, probably because the time and energy of many people in our district, was channeled into the Social Credit movement and the quest for \$25.00 per month it promised. The members who continued to support the U. F. A. joined the Red Deer local. The members were; President — C. R. Braithwaite, Secretary — Carl Anderson, C. Blakely, T. O. Langton, B. Raymer, M. Morrison, S. Wilson and Ted Anderson. Since 1935 all members of the U. F. A. and F. U. A. in Shady Nook have belonged to the Red Deer or Poplar Ridge locals.

THE SHADY NOOK GARDEN CLUB

The Shady Nook garden club, a most worthy cause indeed

With fourteen women pulling, and Mom Blakely in the lead.

There are Pauline, Winnie, Florence and Lou,
And that folks, is only to mention a few.

We do not try the whole world's ills to fix,
We are happy, to bring pleasure to our local district.
Like a cake, it is set up, and is going OH so nice,
I think we will offer the Burnt Laker's a slice.

So come on girls, join us some bright sunny day,
A great big fine welcome is headed your way.
Bring no money along to join us, for that is not our style,
Just pack a small lunch and wear a big handsome smile.

No membership is charged, for this way you see,
We do not need a treasurer or a secretaree,
No minutes are written down, no records kept about us,
This way, there is nothing to come back and haunt us.

On meeting days our husbands, bring us from near and far,

In the pretense, they think we'd have trouble with the car.
They manage to linger till refreshments we serve,
Then sit around the table, do 'man-talk' to settle the nerves.

We put on a summer picnic, our men folk to please,
Where we pile the food high on the tables, out under the trees.



Back Row — Naomi Johanson, Chris Mayhew, Dorothea Stewart, Pauline Blakely. Front Row — Mrs. Bergstrom, Mrs. Soderquist, Mrs. Blakely, Florence Anderson.



Shady Nook Garden Club Ladies — Mrs. Ena Blakely, Florence Anderson, May Soderquist, Pauline Blakely, Jeanne DePalme, Eva Anderson, Amy Pearson, Annie Switzer.



Garden Club taken at Naomi Johanson's. L-R: Miss Naomi Johanson, Mrs. Soderquist, visitor, Mrs. Axel Johanson, Mrs. Hilda Sawyer, Mrs. Amy Pearson, Mrs. Ellen Smith, Mrs. Annie Davis, Mrs. Ena Blakely, Mrs. Edna Butler, Mrs. Lydia Jones, Mrs. Anne Bayford, and Rosemarie Butler, about 1967.

You can fill up your own plate, and choose from a lot of beverages,
Then sit down to eat it wherever you please.

After lunch you may just like to take a good snooze,
Or if you feel up to it, you can pitch a few horse shoes.
The young ones may play games, run races or just putter,
While the old guys, sort'er sneak back for some coffee,
bread and butter.

At Christmas time, we put on a party, to give Santa a hand,

To keep up his good work here, in our chosen land.
Hats off to our women, we can all bear witness to that,
For without them, this community would crumble in no time flat.

Dwight Sawyer

THE RED DEER WEST 4H BEEF CLUB

Our 4H members originally belonged to the Red Deer Elks 4H. In 1967 this club became too large to offer sufficient opportunity to the membership. In the fall of 1968 it was decided to split the Red Deer area in two, the common boundry being the no. 2 highway. Red Deer west draws its members from the Waskasoo, Fairland, Shady Nook, Ridgewood, Pine Hill, Poplar Ridge and Crossroads districts. The club leaders have been Gordon Johnson, Bill Milne, Dick Groom, Ron Didier, and Gene Couture. Club presidents have been Brian Good, Pat Morrison, Wes Johnson, Jim Armitage, Danny Belich, Susan Douglas and Geraldine Hoff. The following members have been secretaries, Pat Johnson, Linda Milne, Laurie Braithwaite, Susan Douglas, Cliff Braithwaite, Darcy Didier, and Patty Harvey. The club calves are



L — 4-H Achievement Day. Red Deer West Pee-Wees in foreground R — Peter Milne, Donnie Armitage, Debbie Belich, Chris Pohl, Robbie Armitage, Danny Belich, Susan Douglas, Brian



Hougestol, Susan Armitage, Mark Pohl. At front are Stewart and Norana Belich.



Gerry Hoff and her grand champion 4-H steer, 1975.

shown at Red Deer in competition with the Red Deer East, Knee Hill Valley, Delburne and Bowden-Innisfail Clubs. We won the Grand Champion of the show once, the best overall club on one occasion, and the best group of five twice. Our most notable achievement has been the consistency with which the club has won the trophy for the highest average weight of gain. In 1976-77 we have 24 members. Our meetings are held through the generosity of the Poplar Ridge Community in their community centre or at Shady Nook.

TELEPHONES IN SHADY NOOK — AGT AND THE RED DEER MUTUAL

Probably because of our proximity to Red Deer very little phone service was provided in the early days of Shady Nook. The only service we have any record of is that of a pay station on the N.W. ¼ of 6, (Axel Johanson farm). This is near the north-west corner of our district and was owned by the T. Moore Co. (See Telephone History, Centreville.)

The first rural telephone line off the Red Deer Exchange was built east of Red Deer in 1919. It was a relatively short, straight line and it served four or five customers. It was soon after the election of the UFA government in 1921 that telephone service in our area became available.

It is probable that line construction started late in 1921; by the end of 1922 all our lines were in. There were quite a few farms with telephone service up to 1930.

The Depression that began in 1929 was to raise havoc with the Government Telephone System. The phone bill per month was \$2.00. This was the same price as a 100 pound bag of flour. Most farms in our area had the phones taken out. Our information indicates that only eight phones were in operation during the worst years of the dirty thirties. Those with phones were: August Gehrke, Byron Raymer, Charles and Al McCune, Jean De Palme, J. Wiggins and our two Grain Elevators.

One of the first things the new Social Credit government did after its election in 1935 was to get out of the rural telephone business. The AGT had gone broke.

The Social Credit government encouraged the establishment of local Mutual Telephone Companies (similar to Co-ops) authorized by the Mutual Telephone Act of 1935. The memorandum of agreement between the Red Deer Mutual Telephones and His Majesty King Edward VIII as represented by J. D. Baker of Alberta

Government Telephones was signed on December 30, 1936.

The contract was drawn up and signed January 1, 1937. It is interesting to note that on the contract the name of His Majesty Edward VIII was crossed off and George VI substituted. This original contract was for one year, to continue each year thereafter unless cancelled by thirty days' notice from either party.

The original directors were president A. A. Stonehouse, Marvin F. Wiley, J. Wiggins, J. Richards, C. J. Puzey, and J. Hazlett. Our first linesman was Eric Goodacre. His wages were set at 25c per hour. The phone service was to cost \$2.00 per month. Goodacre was instructed to remove the dead lines — he was to hire sufficient help to do the job and was authorized to pay the hired help 20c per hour. Each shareholder was required to give two days work and failure to do so, without good cause, was penalized at the rate of \$2.00 per day or a total of \$4.00.

R. C. Ives served as the first secretary. At a meeting of the directors on January 16, 1939 the secretary requested that the mutual pay the monthly phone bill for his office. This was rejected by the directors due to lack of funds. On August 5, 1939 Ives resigned and Marshal Lees was appointed. His pay was set at 15c per phone per month. The linesman's wages were raised from 25c to 30c per hour. On October 22, 1940 a new linesman was hired. We believe it was Charlie Ross, however no mention of the man's name appears in the minutes until July 3, 1942.

Economic conditions in Alberta were improving, the worst of the depression was over. At the directors meeting on July 3, the linesman's wages were jumped to 70c per hour.

Sam Edwards and Sons were appointed Secretary in 1949. The mutual had grown slowly from its inception in 1936 to 1949. There were 208 subscribers that year.

In 1959 the linesman was instructed not to work over nine hours per day or over forty-eight hours per week. Charlie Ross served the Red Deer mutual until April, 1957. On his retirement, Duff Taylor was hired.

The next big change came with direct distance dialing in the latter part of 1961 or in 1962. The overhead lines were replaced by underground cables in 1970 when the Provincial Government took over all responsibility for phone service.

The Red Deer Mutual was a farmer-owned company and only farmers could be shareholders. At the close of business in 1970 there were 347 shares with a net value of \$55.00 and 700 subscribers. It had become a fairly substantial business. The Bank Balance stood at \$30,500 and during the last year of operation switching charges, toll charges, and pin space rental had cost the Red Deer mutual \$42,915.45. The last meeting was held on February 11, 1971, president Don Graham's report stated. 1970 saw the change-over to AGT service from the Red Deer Mutual, which has served this area from 1936.

The following men served as president of our phone company: A. A. Stonehouse, 1936-1938; A. L. Forrester, 1939; J. Hazlett, 1940-1941; R. J. Murray, 1942-1962; F. De Palme, 1965-1966; Norm Bawthinheimer, 1967; Donald Graham, 1968-1971.

The secretaries were: R. C. Ives, A. M. Lees, S. Edwards and Sons, and Charlie Ruttan. Loren Blain was

the auditor for several years and with the resignation of Charlie Ruttan he also served as secretary-treasurer for six months, during which time the affairs of the Red Deer Mutual were closed out. J. Wiggins, Al McCune, and F. De Palme were long-time directors for Shady Nook, and the Burnt Lake area, as far west as Swain Swainsons.

A sale of poles, wire and tools was held to dispose of all useful material and supplies. A large percentage of the wire could not be disposed of, and it was returned to the shareholders, along with \$98 per share realized from the dispersal of the assets. All that is now left of the Red Deer Mutual is a few rolls of wire in its members' yards and some memories.

by J. D. Braithwaite
from information supplied by Thomas Hoskin

THE GRAIN TRADE IN SHADY NOOK

The Grain Warehouse

Although the date of construction or the final destiny of the Grain Warehouse is unknown, its location is indisputable; it was built on a steep hillside two-fifths of a mile southwest of the Mintlaw Siding. A roadway was built on the high side so grain could be shovelled into the top of the bins. Another road on the downhill side allowed grain to be spouted into sleigh and wagon boxes. From the size of the foundation, it appears to have held two car loads. Alban Smith and Alfred McCune built the warehouse; Alfred worked for Alban. They bought grain for a grain dealer in Red Deer. It was purchased in small lots from several farmers and when they had enough on hand, it was hauled to and loaded out at the Mintlaw Siding. The old road to the warehouse angled across the NW of 27 and the trail through the bush in the northeast corner is still there today. This building was last used in the spring of 1920. The earth works and part of the foundation remain as a lonely reminder to a nearly forgotten past.

The Local Grain Buyer

Alban Smith sold out and moved away in the spring of 1920. Alfred McCune began buying grain for the Searle Grain Co. in the fall of that year. He was under the supervision of Mr. Welliver of Red Deer. Searle Grain Co. supplied the building material and Alfred built a small shack beside the tracks at Mintlaw for use as an office. The grain was transferred from wagon and sleigh boxes to the railroad cars with a drag flight elevator powered by a three-horsepower cushion engine. This setup was used until the end of 1923, when Alfred purchased the building from Searle Grain Co. and moved it to his farm. Old timers in our area will recall it as the little white wash house beside the McCune residence.

The Searle Grain Co. Elevator

In 1923 Blades Bros. of Red Deer were hired by Searle Grain Co. to build the Mintlaw Elevator. It was a little 15,000-bushel structure; large elevator was not required because Mintlaw is located near the river and their grain buying was limited to a semi-circular area. The south half of Shady Nook and a large part of Ridgewood patronized this elevator until grain movement by truck became popular.

This elevator was ready for use in 1924 but a very severe hail storm destroyed the crops that year so they received very little, if any, grain until the fall of 1925. It

was closed to customers in 1951. It was used for grain storage for several years, then sold to a farmer and moved to his farm east of Lacombe.

The United Grain Growers

The U.G.G. built an elevator at the Cygnet Siding in 1921 of 25,000 bushel capacity. It remained in use until the summer of 1942 when it was struck by lightning and burned to the ground.

The Elevator Men of Shady Nook

Mr. McGibbon, Herman Bratke, Thorpe Smith, Charlie Bouchard and Jim Park worked at Cygnet and Manly Blades, George Ross, Cliff Frizzel, Crogan Frizzel, Keith Wiggins, Sid Hewson and Allan Wood worked at Mintlaw.

THE TOWN OF MINTLAW

Mr. Alban Smith came from Chicago, U.S.A. and bought the S ½ of 34 from Professor Charles Wright. Smith was not very successful as a farmer but with the proposed A.C.R. railway about to cross his farm, he foresaw an opportunity to join in on the real-estate boom that followed railway construction across Canada.

He did everything possible to encourage the Mintlaw siding. He gave the railway a 300 ft. wide right-of-way across the SE 34, and also a road allowance off the north end of the SW 34 and across the SE ¼ as far as the right-of-way.

After the railroad was built, he sold the C.P.R. Land Co. the balance of the SE 34 and it was this company that surveyed the townsite of Mintlaw. The townsite occupied approximately 10 acres. The C.P.R. Land Co. then paid Alban for the roadway that ran part way across the SE 34 and named it Herbert Street.

Alban Smith believed there was room for a much larger development than C.P.R. contemplated and proceeded to show his faith in the area by establishing the townsite of West Mintlaw. The entire area of the SW 34 was surveyed into lots and blocks — 264 parcels in all. Much to his disappointment, the only development that ever took place was the erection of the Mintlaw elevator in 1923. Mr. Smith, burdened with large costs for surveyors was unable to remain here long enough to see even that minor development.

He rented the farm out for a few years and in 1920, he sold it.

LOG DRIVING AND FREE LOGS ALONG THE RED DEER

The bulk of the logs for the Great West Lumber Co. mill at Red Deer were cut upstream in the Spruceview to Sundre area and were floated down to the mill at Red Deer. A sizeable crew was required to push stranded logs back into the stream. When the water level dropped, piles of logs would jam up on the ends of islands and gravel bars. The last saw log drive was made, we believe in 1914. Some of the old time log drivers were called back to work in the early summer of 1934. Several mines near Drumheller contracted for a large order of mine props. The props were cut into 16' lengths in the west country, probably near Sundre and floated down to Drumheller. The river level dropped and left large quantities stranded. A crew of ten men followed the drive down stream clearing the jams. Some of the props became water logged and would not float. Many farmers along the river had piled

Examined and approved
2nd February 1913

Form of Subj. Approved subject To
Registration by or Bureau of 31-13.

WEST MINTLAW

A SUBDIVISION of the S.W. 1/4 Sec. 34,
Tp. 37, Rge. 28, W. 4 M.

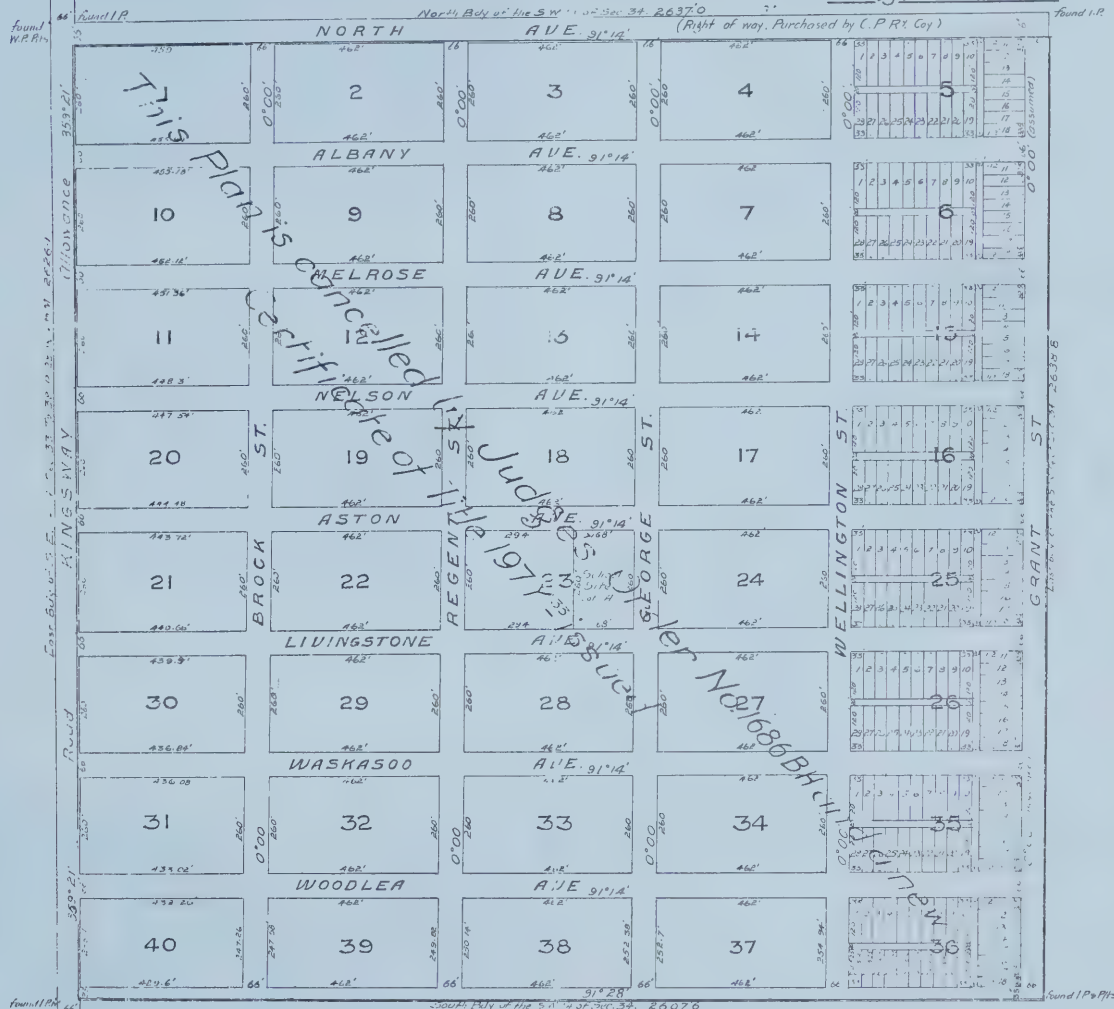
Scale 200 Ft = 1 in.

By John S. Leitch A.L.S.

256 Parcels of land.

Note Land to be registered outlined in orange

Seymour & Dawe, Limited.
Civil Engineers, Red Deer, Alberta.



I, John S. Leitch, an Alberta Land Surveyor, do hereby declare that the survey represented by this plan has been made by me in accordance with the provisions of the Alberta Survey Act, and that this plan is a true and correct copy of the original and has been prepared in accordance with the provisions of the Land Titles Act.

Signed at the residence of

John S. Leitch

Alberta Land Surveyor.

Owner: *William Smith*

Witness: *John S. Leitch*

I, *John S. Leitch*, of Red Deer in the Province of Alberta, do hereby declare and say:
1. I was personally present and did see *William Smith* and *John S. Leitch* named in the within instrument who are personally known to me to be the persons named therein duly authorized to execute the same for the purposes named therein.
2. That the same was executed at Red Deer in the Province of Alberta and that I am the authorized witness thereto.
3. That I personally know the said *William Smith* and *John S. Leitch*, and they are in my belief of the full age of twenty years.

Sworn before me at Red Deer in the Province of Alberta, this 2nd day of Dec. 1913.

John S. Leitch
Commissioner for Alberta

MINTLAW

Subdivision of part of

S.E. 1/4 SEC. 34, T.P. 37, R. 28, W. 4 T.M.

ALBERTA

Scale:- 200 feet = 1 inch.

Can. Pac. Ry. Co.

Dept. of Natural Resources

Calgary, Alta.

12th Dec. 1913.

Allan Cameron
General Superintendent of Lands



water logged props into piles by the river for their own use. When the log drivers came along they thanked the farmers for piling the logs on the bank so they would dry out and float, then threw the props into the river again, causing some embarrassment to the farmers. Shucks fellows! You knew it was too good to be true.

MEMORIES OF THE BURNT LAKE TRAIL — by Bruno Comis

We moved to the farm along the Burnt Lake Trail in 1920. At that time the wagon road from the ferry across the Red Deer River at the Industrial School was in perfect condition, as there was also a ford at the site. You could follow the original Edmonton-Calgary Wagon Trail, as it was visible beyond the Blindman River. In those days the pack trail, which was the shortest distance from one point to another, was also deep and clearly visible.

About 1924, the Burnt Lake Trail was two ruts. A big steamer, operated by Frank Dallaire, came and graded the road which was then smoothed down by Wes Dwyer, who used a four-bar drag pulled by four horses. The holes were drained and filled by hand with a shovel. The maintenance was later done by Andrew Forrester, until such time as the Burnt Lake Trail was upgraded and gravelled. These two gentlemen looked after the Burnt Lake Trail from the town limits of Red Deer to the fifth meridian.

Benson Latam and the Wiggins were among the early car owners and drivers over the Burnt Lake Trail and had 490 Chevrolets — '23 or '24 models. In 1925 or 1926 it was used for regular traffic. This regressed back to the Bennett Buggy during the 1930's, then cars and trucks again in the late '30's.

A highlight of the Burnt Lake Trail, before the motor traffic, was the sight of Jerry Sills passing by on the road with three to four pair of mules and a pair of Percheron



Wiggins new car Nov. 11, 1918. John Wiggins in driver's seat. Keith in back.

wheelers, pulling two grain tanks — two wagon loads of grain. The lead mules had bells mounted on the hames and Jerry Sills rode the left wheel horse and drove the entire unit with the jerk line. He was the only person I ever knew that was an original mule skinner, having driven an ore-wagon in Butte, Montana, that freighted in this manner.

Another sight to see was August Gehrke, who drove a very smart-looking span of horses on a democrat. His son, Bill, bred and raised these coach horses at his farm near Delburne.

One of the most popular travellers was Ernie Kirk, our welcome mail carrier for many years. He delivered mail in a Studebaker democrat which was later sold to Cliff Braithwaite.



Last day of school for all six Braithwaite children June, 1937 showing a sturdy Studebaker democrat.

Living along the Burnt Lake Trail brings back memories of being aroused at midnight by many ardent Red Deer fishermen stuck in the mud and in need of assistance.

MOON AND SPRUCES — by Gary Botting Shady Nook, October 10, 1976

Behold the spruces
Standing proud against her light:

No excuses
Have they to explain their plight;
No need for muses
To set their world aright!
The moon seduces
In her quiet ascending flight
For she uses
All the powers of delight
If she chooses
To present the sight
Of stately spruces
Standing proud against her light!

ENTERTAINMENT IN SHADY NOOK

Late '20s Through the '30s

The River

Since there was little or no money during this period, amusement and entertainment had to be free. What was freer than the river? On Sundays and evenings during the summer quite a few of the younger people (and some oldsters too) could be seen down at the river swimming, fishing, or just having a picnic, or all three.

The winter was another story, but usually a patch of the river was cleared of snow and there would be rough and tumble hockey and another patch cleared for the younger ones to skate on. This occurred mostly for Shady Nook at the farm of Mr. and Mrs. George Butler. Also because of the steep hill, tobogganing was a sport and I have seen as many as 200 persons down there on a Sunday with toboggans of all shapes and sizes. A jump was created for the more adept and minor accidents occurred and a few suffered bruises and cuts which took a week to get over — but they would be back the next Sunday!

I believe a rink was built at the school around 1934 and hockey was played there occasionally, but the river was never forgotten, especially if it flooded and then froze over, which was likely two or three times a year during the winter.

House Parties and Dances

Several farmers opened their houses two or three times a year during the winter for the local youngsters and indeed the middle-aged. They seldom ended until three or four in the morning.

A very talented couple called Partridge and Whitford used to come and play for us from town. The instruments were fiddle and banjo, guitar and anything else that would come clean with a note. A little home brew was evident sometimes but since it was made in the area nobody minded much. It was thought to be not very potent, but a few found they had been mistaken!

Community Halls

There were two community halls within six or seven miles: Ridgewood Hall to the south and west and located next to the school and Poplar Ridge located north and west on what is now No. 11 Highway. Ridgewood is still in use but Poplar Ridge was torn down shortly after the war. There were others within auto distance but sometimes the road conditions didn't seem to make it worthwhile. Mostly in the winter it was team and bobsleigh because you could pick up as many as a dozen or so boys and girls and be assured of getting to the dance and back home.



The Shady Nook sod busters. L-R — Jim Stewart, Orville Gehrke, Don Morrison, Bob Galt, Reuben Bollinger.



The Shady Nook Glee Club. L-R Frank DePalme, Bill Wilson, Jean DePalme, Gertrude Wilson, Anne Marie DePalme, Sam Gehrke, Ethel McDonald, Les Oulton, Mrs. Watt (teacher), Annie Gehrke.

Shady Nook School itself was used quite a lot during the winter, usually commencing with a harvest supper and then the Xmas concert which was a real treat as the adults contributed to some skits, plays, and songs, etc. and it was usually followed by a dance.

Halloweens

Halloween, while consisting of one night only, usually had some aftermath in Shady Nook. This was brought about by the acquisition of one and sometimes two nice fat turkeys which found their way to the home of a bachelor, there to be processed in the usual manner by

the young females of the district of which one or two were probably raised on the same farm as the turkeys. This was only being polite and perhaps acted as a salve to the conscience of the acquirers. Needless to say any designated evening constituted a great time: the turkeys were eaten, the carpet rolled back and the dance was on!

Entertainment in our area was created solely by the inhabitants, who worked hard and played hard. In signing off may I say it's been a pleasure to enter the realms of nostalgia once again!

J. B. Moore



Sunday pickup team early 20's — L-R — Fred Blain, John Soley, Carl Anderson, Griff Mayhew, Gertrude Shirley, George Silverberg, Bill Wilson, unknown, Keith Wiggins, Pete Lutz.

INSIDE AND OUTSIDE

Two worlds collide —
Inside and outside —
And sometimes I wonder
If we don't blunder
In labelling thunder
Of feeling and song
Black or white,
Right —
Or wrong!

AASSEN, T.

The homesteader on N.W. 28-37-28-W.4. He filed on October 26, 1894.

ALLEN, JOHNNIE

Johnnie and his wife Fanny came from the mid-western U.S.A. - if memory serves history, from Kansas. In 1901 they lived on the S.W. ¼ 19-37-28-4, just east of the Neal Bickley place.

One morning Johnny got up and shot a black bear a few feet from his front door. That was the last bear skin rug taken in this area, although a bear was seen in the mid 1940's just three miles south and one mile west of the Allen place.

Allens lived in Shady Nook area for about two years, and then returned to the United States.

ALLEN, SYDNEY AND NORMA

Sydney A. Allen was born at Baildo, Sask., twenty-one miles southeast of Moose Jaw. He is the son of George D. Allen who came from Minot, North Dakota in 1904 and homesteaded in the Blue Hill district in Saskatchewan.

George Allen married Miss Mortana Barber and raised a family of six. They farmed until 1941 when they moved to Vancouver. Norma's father, Walter A. Lavier, married Miss Lenora Svinger and they also raised a family of six.

Walter homesteaded in the early years with George Allen and ran the Leakville post office for many years.

Syd and Norma were married in Moose Jaw in 1941. They farmed for the first ten years of their married life near Briercrest, Sask. Syd ran grain elevators and drove Simpsons-Sears trucks in Moose Jaw until moving to Red Deer in 1959. In Red Deer he worked as receiver for Western Supplies and Hayhoes until he was laid off because of illness. In 1965 they bought an acreage in the Shady Nook District and moved out here in 1970.

Syd worked as custodian at schools in Red Deer until the doctor took him off work in April 1976. Norma has worked at the West Park Nursing home for the past ten years.

Allens had four children; Delbert married Virginia Johnson and they have three daughters, Debbie, Tina and Jody. Delbert is the service manager for Standard Bus Co. in Prince George, B.C. Their second son Ronald passed away at Red Deer in 1962. Linda married Allan Chinnery; they farm at Coronation and have one son, Jess Aaron. Syd and Norma's youngest son Terry, still lives at home and attends school in Red Deer.

ANDERSONS, J. P.

Mr. and Mrs. John Peter Anderson came from Minnesota, U.S.A. in 1901. They bought the S.W. ¼ of 5 from the C.P.R. They homesteaded in the Evarts district

for a few years and then returned to the present home site. They had seven children at this time: Bertha, Esther, Arthur, Carl, Helga and Philip. Ted and Agnes were born while they were in Evarts. The older girls, Mrs. John Beshears (Bertha) and Mrs. L. Hoffman (Esther) returned to the States, married and raised their families. They are both deceased.

The boys farmed at home with their parents until Mr. Anderson died in August of 1917. Ted farmed with his mother until her death in 1943. He then bought the farm from the estate.

Arthur farmed the S.E. ¼ of 5 until his death in 1947.

Philip married Flossie Addison of Clive. They had two children, Evelyn and Wendall. Evelyn is Mrs. Ben Bossio of Langley and Wendall has two children, Kelly and Phyllis at New Westminster. Philip was killed at a rail crossing in Tofield, Alberta in 1947 and Wendall passed away in 1974. Agnes is a retired school teacher, having taught for many years at Shady Nook, Hussar, and Canadian Union College in Lacombe. Her home is in Red Deer.



L-R — Helga Mannerfeldt, Philip Anderson, Bertha Beshears, Ted Anderson, Matilda Anderson, Carl Anderson, Agnes Anderson, Arthur Anderson, Olga Johanson.



Annual family Christmas gathering of the J. P. Anderson families.

ANDERSON, TED AND EVA

Ted Anderson married Eva Helmer, Lacombe, in 1938. They have four children; Carol (Mrs. Stan Wong) of Clive who has three children; Jack of Calgary who has two children; Connie Hilman who lives at Joffre and has three children; and Bill who is at home and farms with his father.



Ted and Eva Anderson, 1937.



Ted Anderson family, June 1976. Back — Bill, Connie, Carol and Jack. Front — Ted and Eva.

ANDERSON, CARL AND FLORENCE

Carl Anderson was the sixth of a family of nine, four boys and five girls. He was born at Ruthton, Murray County, Minnesota, U.S.A. His parents, Mr. and Mrs.

John Peter Anderson and a family of seven came to Canada in 1901. They lived for a time in the Evarts district where Carl started School. A humorous incident to Carl that he often reminisced about was a time when he and his brother, Philip, took it upon themselves to secure a saddle horse, so they marched this cow they were using for the trade over to a couple of bachelor neighbors, the Lingrin Brothers (unknown to them!) The deal didn't materialize, though: Carl was five and Philip four at the time!

In 1910 the family moved to Shady Nook district and Carl finished his education here, taking high school in Red Deer. A recollection of his youth (at fourteen) was the time he attempted to trap muskrats on a small lake on the Plummer farm. The ice was thin and he fell through and went up to his shoulders. He got out and walked a quarter mile to Plummers. By the time he got there, his clothes were frozen solid.

In 1916 Carl attended a college in Lagrange, Illinois for one year, as his intentions were to become a doctor, but his father passed away in 1917 so he came back to help on the farm.

Carl and I were married at Red Deer on June 27, 1929. We had our honeymoon at Banff, Alberta. We drove there in our Model T Ford Coupe. I was Florence Elenor Lindman, third born in 1908 into the family of Mr. and Mrs. Axel Lindman of Burnt Lake. I received my schooling at Sylvan Lake, a one room structure at that time. Our parents took us to school three and a half miles with a horse and buggy until we were old enough to go by ourselves. I have many special memories of the Maypole dances, a day celebrated in May, usually down at the beach. Colored ribbons red, white, and blue were fastened to the top of a high pole, then we would do this drill, with a participant holding the end of a ribbon, and skipping around the pole to make the colors alternate. We looked forward to this day as the drill was quite effective. We were allowed to be all dressed up in our best. It got to be a celebration we looked forward to.

Our farm here in Shady Nook is located on N.E. 5-38-28-W4 and we lived here all of our married life (46 years). We built our home among the trees, and remember the beautiful singing of the birds we would wake up to every morning. There were so many birds then.

On New Year's day, six months after we were married, accompanied by Agnes, Carl's sister, we were on our way to Carl's brother's place for dinner, Mr. and Mrs. Philip Anderson of Clive. But we never got there. Our car hit an icy spot on the road and turned over. I had a cut artery on my leg and very nearly bled to death. Carl put a tourniquet made from his shirt to stop the bleeding. I was in the hospital three months.

Our farming enterprise was mixed, milking cows, etc. Memories of the depression years are very vivid. Eggs sold for three to seven cents a dozen. Hens were good layers then. I remember selling a cow for seven dollars. We used our own produce as much as possible. We made our own butter and our own cheese and various milk dishes. We cooked buttermilk down to make a very tasty spread the Swedish people called Mas smoir. We had all our own eggs and meat, picked wild berries, took our wheat to a mill and had flour ground, and we always had a garden. In the early years, Carl did road dragging, with



Carl and Florence Anderson and daughters Bernice, Barbara, Marie and Shirley.

a four-horse team, after rains. Milking cows was our standby and when the children were small, we would take them out to the barn in an apple box. To help them pass the time, we would sing and recite nursery rhymes to them. We hung twines from the poles in the roof for the kittens to play with and they enjoyed watching that.

In the early years we separated the milk and fed calves. When the condensery operated in Red Deer we shipped the whole milk in cans. Our useful chore horse, Fanny, got to be thirty years old. She faithfully pulled the cans to the roadside stand for many years, pulled in a lot of the hay, and was useful in cleaning the barn.

Our family is four girls; Marie, Barbara, Bernice and Shirley. Marie, a triplet, was born March 2, 1931. She is married to Loren Wambold of Olds, Alberta. They have three girls; Judy, Debbra and Janelle. When Marie was a youngster her main interest was being outdoors at chore time to watch the calves being fed their milk. When it came time to sell the calves she would watch them being loaded and walk around singing to keep from crying.

Barbara, Mrs. Whitehead of Lacombe, has two girls Laurie and Sheryl Lee. Barbara was born January 24, 1936. From very small she would bring a chair by my side to watch me while mixing up a cake or other baking. She has enjoyed cooking ever since.

Bernice is Mrs. Ken Fox of Grande Prairie. They have a daughter Shonna and a son Todd. When Bernice was born our hopes were for a boy to name him Norman. Being a girl we named her Norma Bernice but called her Bernice. When growing up her interests were riding horseback and roping calves.

Shirley Mae is Mrs. Ralph Kenzle, Calgary. They have two girls, Tena and Monica. Shirley, five years younger than Bernice, was our only child at home later on. Interested in music, she'd accompany herself with the accordion and enjoyed working with flowers.

Carl served on the school board in Shady Nook for many years. We both took an active part as members of the Seventh Day Adventist Church. The first church of this congregation was located at Burnt Lake and now a new one is built in Sylvan Lake since 1972.

My favorite hobby is cooking, gardening, and blueberry picking. I remember one incident when a group of us ladies went out and followed an oil rig trail through the bush. There were deep ruts, so Mrs. Soderquist walked on ahead as I drove behind in the car. She was making sure that there weren't any big rocks and deep holes to go through. It was worth the effort as we found a good patch!

Carl enjoyed reading. We both enjoyed our neighbours and were members of the FWUA and the Garden Club which is still active.

We've had some variable weather experiences; in 1951 the snow was up so high, one could touch the telephone wires in places. In 1930-1931 it was a bare winter. There was a real dust storm on the second of March; so dense that lights were needed. Then in 1936 it was extremely cold, being 40 to 50 below most of the time.

I recall another incident involving a man who came and asked for a meal. He explained that he had some sort of disease contracted from the mice, so stayed and had his meal on the porch step. This was during the time when men found it hard to find work.

Carl retired from active farming in 1966 because of ill health. I enjoyed working outdoors and did as much as I could to help Carl.

We celebrated our forty-second anniversary in June, 1971 with an open house celebration held at the home of our daughter Bernice, Mrs. Ken Fox, of Red Deer.

Carl passed away at the age of 76 in 1975.

— Florence Anderson

ANDERSON FAMILY

Mr. and Mrs. Anderson and family settled on the N.W. 5-38-28-W4 in 1904. This is the quarter north of Ted Anderson's home place. They were unrelated to any other Andersons. Daniel worked for Eric Johanson. William worked in Red Deer. Two girls Esther and Augusta lived at home. In the fall of 1906, they converted a wagon into a prairie schooner and drove to Estevan, Saskatchewan, where they intended to farm.

ARCHIBALD, ROY AND KERMITT

Roy and Kermit Archibald were married in 1923. They farmed at N.W. ¼ 38-28-4 for 26 years and raised four sons, and two daughters, Harold, Garry, Jim, Robbin, Kathaline, and Joyce.

Roy was a good farmer and neighbor, he was a carpenter, mechanic and anything else you wanted to name.

Kermit was a very good worker and could make clothes for her family as good as if they came from the store.

Roy and Kermit raised their family and put them through school with Harold, Garry and Jim going through college — a very hard thing to do in those days.

They later moved to Red Deer.

ARMITAGE, MARTIN AND BERTHA

Martin Armitage was born in Nenagh County, Tipperary, Ireland, March 1, 1887. In 1911 he left Ireland for the United States and he arrived in Manitoba in 1913. He railroaded in the Winnipeg area, moving west to the Piapot, Saskatchewan area in 1914, where he



Martin and Bertha Armitage. 40th wedding anniversary.



Glen, Mrs. Bertha Armitage, Rex, Breda, and John.

took up farming. On April 5, 1926 he married Bertha Heard who was also from Piapot, and they continued to farm this area. Mark, as he was known to his friends, came to look for better farm land and chose the area around Red Deer. He finally picked the quarter section in the Shady Nook area which belonged to the Gehrke estate. Then on Nov. 8, 1939 with two C.P.R. boxcars of personal effects, his wife, three sons and one daughter he arrived via Calgary at Mintlaw, to take up a new life. The family moved into a large house which had been the Gehrke residence, built in 1903. It still remains in good condition, with modern renovations having been made.

At that time the home quarter (S.E. 4-38-28-W4) consisted of 100 acres and was farmed with an eight horse team. The nearest neighbors were Sam Wilson, the Bill Stewarts and the Glen Lutz family. The children, Glen, Breda, John and Rex attended the Shady Nook School. Mark was on the Rural Electrification Board and met some tough opposition and skepticism. Bertha worked in

the Red Cross during the war years. Memories of the area were the good dances, the Christmas concerts, school picnics and the general friendliness of all the neighbors. Bertha and Mark moved to Red Deer in 1953, returning to the farm in spring and summer to help with the fieldwork. Glen and Rex continued to farm and expand into a grain and beef feedlot operation. Breda became Mrs. William Strong, and has a family of seven residing in Coquitlam. John worked with various aspects of the oil industry and at present resides in Calgary. He has two children.

During semi-retirement Mark became active in curling and golfing. He died Nov. 21, 1970 after a lengthy illness. Bertha still resides in Red Deer, enjoying her garden, daily walks and visits with her neighbors.

ARMITAGE, GLEN AND HELEN

From the dry windblown area about Piapot in Southern Saskatchewan, Glen arrived in the rolling hills of the Shady Nook district November 5, 1939, with his parents Martin and Bertha, his sister Breda and two brothers John and Rex, to make a new home on the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of 4-38-28 W4, which his father had purchased from the Gehrke Estate. Glen had returned to the province of his birth, having been born February 13, 1927, at Medicine Hat, 90 miles distant from Piapot, but the location of the closest major hospital.

Martin had emigrated from Ireland and following a two-year period in New York, found employment as an earth mover for the Canadian Pacific Railways. He often commented on the building of the approaches to the High Level Bridge in Edmonton. Upon the commencement of World War I, construction slowed down and Martin took up farming in partnership with Art Jaspersen on the bench of the Cypress Hills, twenty-four miles distant from Piapot. During the winter months, the two young men would leave home about 4:00 a.m. to haul grain with two four-horse teams, each pulling a 125 bushel grain tank to Piapot or Raven's Cragg, an equal distance, returning home about 11:00 p.m. There was, however, a shortage of water on the bench and Martin relocated on a farm eight miles from Piapot, at the foot of the Cypress Hills, bordering near the historical 76 Ranch owned by Gordon, Ironside and Farris. It was to this new location he brought Bertha Herd, his bride, in 1926, and settled to raise his family.

In 1934, at the age of 7, Glen began school, travelling quickly on horseback the four miles across prairie to school. The following year, when his sister Breda began school, the students graduated to a one-horse cart but due to the lack of roads continued to use the trail across the prairie. Because of the lack of roads and the extreme cold, classes were discontinued during the latter part of January and throughout February, necessitating continuing classes on into the summer months.

In 1937, after five years of crop failures, Martin came to Alberta seeking a new farming site. The winter of '37 was gruelling. Martin, being a county councillor, was assigned the job of doling out once or twice a week, bales of Government-supplied Alberta straw. Farmers came from twenty to thirty miles for their allotment, returning home with two bales of straw. The human diet was supplemented throughout this period by shipments of fresh vegetables, tasty apples and huge round cheeses

shipped from Ontario. Lack of feed in 1937 compelled him to dispose of his cow herd, retaining one cow only and one saddle horse. Under the government program some 15 to 20 horses were shipped by rail to Didsbury for winter pasturing. The cow and saddle horse were his only livestock on hand, feeding out the winter on not quite three loads of Russian Thistle. Glen recalls that when the horses were returned in the spring of 1938, the box car was opened and the horses leaped out and ran eight miles straight home. He can still see them come galloping over the hill into the yard.

In 1939, having successfully purchased land in Central Alberta, the Armitages packed their household goods, some machinery and nine horses into two grain box cars. During the eight mile trek from home to the railway station, their dog Fred was run down and killed by a "speeding" motorist. The tedious but promising journey to Red Deer was made by train accompanied by the two carloads of their possessions. Upon their arrival in Red Deer the family was obligated to take rooms at the Auditorium Hotel (now the Park Hotel) for several days awaiting the transfer of their possessions from the Red Deer station to the Mintlaw station at which point they were unloaded and transferred to their new home. Keith Wiggins was on hand at Mintlaw to attend to the immediate transfer and care of the horses. While staying at the Auditorium, Glen recalls sharing a room with Ralph Saynor who had accompanied and cared for the horses on the trip. At the tender age of twelve, Glen came into great wealth. He found a \$20.00 bill on the floor of his room! Alas, his wealth was of short duration. Ralph, fearing being "rolled" during the trip, had hidden the money in his socks and in the process of changing his socks had dropped the \$20.00.

Upon their arrival in Shady Nook, the Armitages soon learned it had been an extremely wet fall. Most of the crops still lay unharvested in the fields. Now, however, the weatherman co-operated with warm days and harvesting continued and was finished a day or two before Christmas.

It was at this time Glen had the traumatic experience of changing schools one consolation being the nearness of the two, one-roomed school houses. In 1939, there were 58 students registered and taught by Messrs. McCutcheon and Pollock. Glen was now in Grade 6 but was the only Grade 6er in Shady Nook School. To facilitate his duties, Mr. McCutcheon deemed it desirable to place Glen in Grade 5 along with his sister Breda. For some time, the children hurried home for their noon meal. Eventually, however, they were granted this carefree hour of fun and games at school, enabled by the carrying of their lunches. Youngsters of this time will recall having to do chores before and after school. It was through these years of spending much of his time caring for and cleaning up after horses, that Glen decided against "horses for pleasure" once tractors came into the picture. Farming was done with an eight-horse team, the team being replaced by a tractor in 1942. A combine was added in 1943 to facilitate harvesting.

The winter of 1942-43 was severe. Communicable diseases ran rampant. Glen recalls incidents of some children having measles two and three times with the resultant enforced quarantine. The roads no longer were

passable due to drifting snow, and traffic crossed the open fields.

In 1944 Glen was required to leave school to help his father on the farm, and together they farmed until Martin's retirement in 1952. Glen and Rex, who had now completed high school, took over the farm from their father. Initially the Armitages had a mixed farm, disposing of their hogs in 1950. They now had a seventy-cow herd, feeding their own calves and, after 1961, beginning to buy some replacements. This small beginning has been built by Glen and Rex into one of the largest feedlots in the Red Deer area. The brothers continue the grain farming along with the feedlot operation, doing their own buying and selling, growing all of their own silage requirements, hay, much of their feed grain and some rape. To facilitate harvesting and storage requirements, Glen and Rex introduced "high moisture barley" into the Red Deer area in 1970. As the barley is harvested at a moisture content of 30-35, the crop can come off early, catching many weeds, providing prime bedding straw, replacing much granary storage and enabling early fall cultivation.

For many years, Glen was an active hockey enthusiast, playing with Shady Nook and later with Burnt Lake teams. During the years 1938 to about 1948 or 1949, the Red Deer Board of Trade sponsored rural hockey tournaments involving some eight different community districts. Glen played ball, and did and still does enjoy bird hunting. He enjoyed drama, participating in three-act plays produced by the Shady Nook residents. Due to pressure of summer work, his leisure hours are at a premium but shorter winter hours enable him to be an avid curler, particularly enjoying the Farmers' Bonspiel and similar 'spiels.

The year 1965 wrote the finish to Glen's bachelor days. He married Mrs. Lloyd Herlein (nee Maggie Wack) formerly of Fuselier, Saskatchewan. Maggie enriched the home and subsidized Glen's bachelor days by bringing with her, her three children Jim, age 10, Susan age 9 and Robert age 8. To this group, on September 22, 1966, was added a second daughter Sandra. The family was tragically deprived of Maggie when she met her death following a car-train accident at a level crossing near Clive on November 12, 1969. It was during this time that Bill Powell, a staff member, and his wife Shirley came forth with their support — Shirley took over the care of the children and the home until Glen's remarriage.

Glen and Helen Morrow (nee Hagel) were married November 20, 1970. Helen's son Donald, age 8, filled the gap between Robert, now 14, and Sandra, age 4. Helen hails from a nomadic family which settled in the Beiseker, Alberta, district in 1908 and 1909. Helen, born to Edward and Frances (nee Schmaltz) Hagel on April 8, 1930, was the seventh child in a family of eleven children — three girls and eight boys. She ventured to London, Ontario in 1949, after completing her high school, to attend the University of Western Ontario. Unforeseen circumstances prohibited her from returning to Ontario for her second year and she rounded off her education with a secretarial course in Calgary. She married Donald Morrow at Beiseker on September 11, 1952, moving to Red Deer in March, 1954. She was left a widow following Don's accidental death on August 31, 1963. Her years in

Red Deer were spent making ample use of her secretarial training. For six years she worked at the Court House, leaving there at a time when her mother was extremely ill with terminal cancer. In May, 1961, she was employed with a local law firm and her service was interrupted upon the arrival of an adoptive son Donald in 1962. Following her husband's death she resumed her duties with the law firm. Many of her summer hours are spent cooking meals during the feed storing months of August and September and harvesting weeks following when extra help was on hand. She maintains cooking is not her favourite role but dislikes it much less than "pounding the typewriter". Her days were well rounded out when Glenna appeared on October 3, 1972, to complete the roster of six children that Glen and Helen now have.

Jim, Susan and Robert have all completed high school and have gone on to higher education. Jim is taking his third year commerce at the University of Alberta, Edmonton; Susan, after working in Ottawa for a year, is in her second year of the Education program at Red Deer College. Robert is also in his second year at Red Deer College. Donald, Sandra and Glenna remain at home.

Glen is extremely conscious of the ever-changing ways of the producers' market and does considerable reading to keep abreast of current trends. Over the years he has served on many boards. He has acted as chairman of the United Grain Growers. In 1976, he retired as a director of the Western Stock Growers after 15 years. He is a charter director of the Alberta Cattle Feeders, a member of Unifarm, was an agricultural director on the Red Deer Chamber of Commerce, was the first chairman and a charter director of the government sponsored Red Deer Cattle Feeders, is an acting director of the Rural Electrification Association and is a 25-year member of the Knights of Columbus.

The agricultural evolution over the past 35 years amazes Glen. He recalls his father using an eight-horse outfit, multiple hitch, three-bottom plow and pony press drill, preparing and seeding at the rate of eight acres per day. Modern machinery can now cover up to 225 acres in a full day. An average farmer of his father's time had a machinery investment of \$500.00 to possibly \$1,000.00; today's machinery investment in a larger family farm can run as high as a quarter million dollars. Gross return of a successful farmer could attain \$10,000.00 in the early 1940s. Present day gross returns can range from \$60,000.00 to several hundred thousand dollars. Mixed farming has been replaced by specialized farming such as grain, dairy, hog, cattle, or possibly a combination of any of the two.

Milk no longer comes from cows — but from the milkman!

ARMITAGE, REX AND JOANNE

Rex Henry Armitage is the youngest son of Martin and Bertha Armitage. He moved to the Shady Nook district with his family in 1939, and attended Shady Nook school until his high school years. He then resided in a dormitory and attended Lindsay Thurber High School, which was in the old army barracks. He and his brother Glen have continued farming the original home quarter, as well as more land around the area. They have continued to progress and build the grain and feedlot business through the years. In 1962, Rex married the



Joanne and Rex Armitage and family. Back — Karen, Sheilagh, Maureen, William. Front — Darryl, Deanna, Elaine, and Lorna.

former Joanne Stelmack, who was a registered nurse from the Holy Cross in Calgary. They built a new house on the home quarter, where they still reside. They have eight children, William, Sheilagh, Maureen, Karen, Darryl, Elaine, Lorna and Dianna. The children attend Montfort and St. Thomas schools in Red Deer. The various functions at the old Shady Nook School (Community Centre) keep neighbours in touch with each other.

ARMSTRONG, TOM

Tom Armstrong lived in Shady Nook for a short while, after returning from World War I, and lived at the bachelor corner. Several returned men lived and partied in a little house north of the creek on S.W. of 14. Tom owned a five-acre parcel and paid taxes to Shady Nook School. The taxes were 75¢ per year. Tom sold his parcel to Geo. Butler and bought Riley's Shamrock Ranch in Ridgewood N.E. of 18-37-28-4.

AUSTIN, BILL

Bill Austin rented the south half of 11 before it was sold to Dr. Thornton.

BAKER, JACK

Jack Baker worked for the C.P.R. for seventeen years. He was a section foreman. His home was provided by the railway company and was located at the Cygnet siding. He was a bachelor who did not take an active part in our community. His main interests were with the railroad and it seemed he didn't stop work or look at anything except a train. He always spent his Christmas Day with Bird Blakely family and his contribution for each year was good company and a jug of wine. He left the district when he retired in the spring of 1949.

BALLARD, J. J.

Mr. Ballard was one of the group of Nova Scotia men that came to Shady Nook in the summer of 1889. On August 20 of that year, he filed on the N.E. of 10, now

owned by Griff Mayhew. Ballard married a Cornett girl from the Waskasoo district.

THE SAGE BANNERMAN FAMILY

Sage Bannerman was born at Helmsdale Scotland in 1836, and came to Renfrew, Ontario with his parents, three brothers and two sisters in the 1850's. He married a McKay girl in Ontario. They moved to Winnipeg in 1878 and on to Calgary in 1881. His brothers, William, Joe and Lloyd were living in Calgary at that time. Relatives think that he first came to the Red Deer River crossing in 1882. In 1883 he settled on some unsurveyed land which he wished to homestead at Sec. 13-38-28-W4th. It was later found out that this land was part of the land grant given to the Saskatchewan Land Company. He made a deal to purchase some lots at the crossing east of the River, on which was located the house and two barns built by Adi McPherson. The lots cost \$10 each. Part of the section west of the river was sold to Bannerman for \$2.00 per acre. Also at this time he homesteaded a quarter on Sec. 10, west of the Indian School.

In 1884 he requested a license to operate a ferry at the crossing. This was issued by the Government of the North West Territory in Regina. He built a scow-type vessel, and named it the "Irish Washer Woman". It's not known why a good Scotsman like Sage would give his ship a name like that; perhaps it was because it was very difficult to handle and he could only keep it operational part of the time!

Travellers often found themselves gingerly fording the river. As the ice went out of the river in 1885 it smashed the scow. On April the 26th of that year, General Strange forded the river at the crossing without difficulty. A few days later Major Perry found it much too high to ford with his troops and cannons. A large raft was hastily built out of the wreckage of the Irish Washer Woman. Bannerman was unable that year to secure heavy rope and pulleys for the ferry. Light picket rope was all he had. The rope broke and the raft, with some of the cannon, came to rest three miles downstream. Major Perry with the help of Mr. Bannerman and some of the soldiers built a better vessel to take the troops and supplies across.

Mr. Bannerman was one of the few white men in the area who did not take shelter during the Riel Rebellion at Fort Normandeau. It was not until March of '86 that he was able to get the ropes and pulleys from Winnipeg. That was also the year that Mrs. Bannerman and the children came west to Red Deer. They had three boys, Jim, Lloyd and William, and two girls, Mrs. Barbara Beaird and Anita, Mrs. Beatty. In 1890 the first bridge was built at Red Deer, the ferry was in operation until 1902. Lloyd and William lived in Calgary. Jim farmed in the Red Deer Area for several years. He worked for the Federal Land Office at Red Deer for awhile. Later he held the job of Land Office Inspector for the three western provinces. Mrs. Bannerman passed away in 1910 and was laid to rest in the Red Deer Cemetery. Sage lived with his son Lloyd in Calgary until 1913, when he passed away and was buried in Calgary. The Bannermans were the first Presbyterians at Red Deer, church services were conducted in their home. Jim Bannerman married Jesse Martin of the Ridgewood District and for many years lived in Edmonton. Jim died in 1956. Jesse passed on in November, 1975 at the very old age of 105 years.

BAYFORD, FRANK AND LES

Joseph and Anne Bayford of Essex County, England, had three children; Frank, Les and Eva (Mrs. McDonald of Lavington, B.C.)

Joseph was killed in the war sometime during 1917. His brother Bill had come to Monitor in eastern Alberta in 1910. Mrs. Anne Bayford and the three children came from England in 1929 to live at Monitor. The family all worked in that area for a few years. The crops were very light in that area during the early 1930s. In 1934, Frank and some other young fellows drove some teams and bundle racks to the Red Deer area to join in the harvest. The next year they came again. Frank would have stayed here after harvest, however, he had to drive his Uncle Bill's horses home. He came back to Red Deer late in 1935 and batched in a little shack on C.N.R. property near the river. In the spring he came to Shady Nook to work for Gordon and Lydia Jones. This job lasted for five years.

Les joined Frank in a partnership and they rented the N.½ of 33. Two years later they bought the Jones farm which was the S.W. of 33-37-28-W.4. They went through the usual experience of most farmers in the depression years. They had cows, pigs, chickens and horses. The first tractor was bought in 1942. It was an old John Deere D on steel. They gradually quit the milk cows and switched to beef.

When their mother came to cook for the boys, they expanded their operation by purchasing the S.½ of 32. As they broke more land they turned to selling seed grain.

Frank and Les got along very well together. They say it was because they never had enough money to fight over but we know it was the good judgment they used. In 1958 they invested in some purebred Polled Hereford cattle — three cows and a bull. The following year they brought in a truck load of good cows, from Nebraska, U.S.A. and in 1960 another load was purchased from there. The cattle were of such good quality that in the following years they sold purebreds for export to the United States, Russia, Japan and England, as well as to most of the provinces of Canada.

The Bayfords helped quite a few of their neighbours by doing custom baling and combining for several years.



Mrs. Anne Bayford and Mrs. Lydia Jones.

Mrs. Anne Bayford passed away at 84 years of age in August, 1969.

Les suffered poor health for eight or nine years. He died June 5th, 1976, at 64 years of age.

Frank married the former Mrs. Cliff (Irene) Robinson on December 31st, 1974.

The Frank Bayfords sold the major portion of their farm in 1974, but are still on the farm doing the work until the new owners arrive from Holland in August, 1976.

BEER, BOB

S.W. 2-38-28-4 had a log house and stables on the east of this quarter at the turn of the century. It appears that this quarter was rented out for several years, since there is quite a long list of residents on it. The original buildings were burnt down by a prairie fire.

BEGGS, JIM AND BETTY

Jim Begg's family were early residents and homesteaders of the Lloydminster district. Betty's family were old-timers of the Enchant district northeast of Lethbridge.

Jim lived for a number of years in the Condor district as did Betty's parents. They were married in 1951 and after a couple of years, moved to Red Deer. They then moved to the Shady Nook district in 1967 where they lived for about seven years.

During the summer of 1974, they moved to a farm in the Bentley - Rimbey district.

Jim works for Intercontinental Packers in Red Deer. Brian and Gary live in Red Deer. Brian, the eldest in the family, works for the C.P.R. out of Red Deer, while Gary works at Intercontinental Packers. Sandra is working in Edmonton, and Sharon, Robert, Tim and David are still at home.

BECKEY, MR. AND MRS.

The Beckeys bought the N.W. 6-37-28-W4 from F. S. Brown in 1894. They both became very ill at the same time. Mrs. Beckey died and was buried on their farm. Mr. Beckey was taken to Red Deer after the funeral and died a day or two later. The Beckey livestock were driven to the Stockyards in Red Deer by the Martin boys of Ridgewood and sold there. Pearsons bought this farm and later sold it to Wesslen.

BELICH, NICHOLAS

Late in the year 1911, Nikola Belich left his native Yugoslavia and made his way to the U.S. on a passport which was not strictly legal as far as the Austro-Hungarian Authorities of the time were concerned. The people of the country were oppressed and downtrodden; there was very little to eat. Robbery was very common and a man could be killed without consequences if you had about \$30.00 to pay off the Magistrate.

Nick took the first opportunity to escape these circumstances, leaving behind a young bride with unborn child. He worked his way through the U.S. and finally joined his brother Fred in British Columbia on a railway construction job. Fred had heard of "America" where you could work for gold, and if you didn't want to work, you could dig your own. He made his way over in 1904, too late for the Klondike gold rush.

Nick soon decided he would like to farm, and came to Alberta to work on farms and ranches in the Calgary

area. The Crown Prince of Austria was assassinated at Sarajevo, Yugoslavia in 1914, touching off the First World War. Nick was in Red Deer at the time and he promptly enlisted to serve with the 10th Canadian Infantry in such places as Vimy Ridge, Hill 70, Paschendale and survived the first German gas attack at Ypres in 1915, where many Canadian B.C. Regiment were killed or captured, victims of poison gas and the infamous Ross rifle. Nick was gassed and wounded three times and carried schrapnel in his chest until death.

"Uncle" Fred in the meantime, had joined a company of volunteers and went to train in Algeria under the French Foreign Legion which attacked the German Forces from the South through Greece and Albania, suffering untold misery and hardship.

After the Armistice, Nick went to school in Calgary where he mastered a few 1-2-3's and a-b-c's and managed to acquire the academic status of Grade Eight. In the meantime, he negotiated with the Soldier Settlement Board for the purchase of the N.E. 26-38-28-4 just west of Red Deer at the east edge of the Poplar Ridge school district. Nick assembled his "outfit" at Irricana. This consisted of four heavy horses and a one-eyed "buggy mare", a wagon and box, sulky plow with "breaker" bottom, section of harrows, a few household articles and grub, the inevitable scythe and a handful of tools including crosscut saw, axe and grubhoe. He headed up the trail to Red Deer. In high gear, it was a three day trip.

The house he moved into was a 14'x18' log structure built by the former resident, a very colorful Metis named Narcisse, who is well remembered by the early settlers of the area.

Mr. Larry Telning was working with three head of horses and an 18" sulky plow about 1904 on the N.E. 25-37-1-5, the site of Roy Swainson's old Warrior Turkey Ranch. A man and two Indian women came along the trail driving a team and buckboard leading a pair of cream colored horses (later called Palomino). This man was Narcisse and he had been told by local Indians that sometime following the American Civil War, probably in the early 1870s, there had been some dry years and the muskeg in low areas were burning — covering the country with smoke and fog for months. Another story of how Burnt Lake got its name!

About 1927, the N.E. 24-38-28 was acquired for \$8,-000.00 with \$600.00 down and 8½% interest. This was known as the Wilkinson place and is the site of a stopping house on the C & E Trail just north-east of the old crossing. The building stood until the late 1930s. One can well remember the inside walls of this two-storey log structure papered with old Missouri magazines dated in the 1870s and 1880s. What stories the old framed pictures on those walls could have told! It is reported that this house was built about 1884 by the grandfather of Ken Wilkinson, now of Sylvan Lake, born there in 1907.

Larry Telning told of a murderer who was followed from Edmonton by a posse and shot near the start of the Burnt Lake Trail at the present Red Deer Golf Course. The man who pulled the trigger could not stand to fire this gun again, so he nailed it to a rafter in the old stage stopping house where it remained for over 20 years until 1922 when someone took it down and put it to some other useful purpose.

There is no use talking about the hard times with which most are familiar, but Nick Belich never lost his sense of humor. Mike Milich who is now retired in Scarborough, Ontario tells the tale of how when backsetting with four horses he hit a stump which had not yet rotted. When he urged the horses on, the eveners broke so he replaced them with another set from the nearby harrows. Same result! "Well, I'll get the steel ones from the John Deere binder," he said. Then: "Giddap Archie!"

The steel did not break but folded up like an accordion. There was nothing to do but go home two miles and report to the boss.

"Why didn't you get the eveners off the harrows?" "I did," said Mike. "Well, there is a good set on the binder. I know, I fixed them too." Nick pondered that bad news for a moment and then said, "Well, I suppose the people who make those things, they have to live too."

Those early years were occupied with the clearing of land and building up the herd of cattle, pigs and kids. Helen — Mrs. Bob Ninkovich; Martha — Mrs. Jack Roth; Percy and George, who still retain the old place.

Some of the methods of clearing land were interesting. The big balm and poplar trees were removed by exposing the roots on the north-west side with a grub hoe and cutting them off, then the first high wind would blow them over. In the winter, the trees were cut, leaving a four foot stump, probably used for firewood.

The next summer a team of "stump puller" horses were hitched to the top of the stump and as they leaned into the pull, the man would cut roots until the stump was finally out. The horses would soon learn the procedure which required that they lean into the collars and hang on.

A good team was a real asset and a pleasure to watch. Such a team was old Club and George who hardly even needed a rein to guide them. Another method of removing the big ones was with "stumping powder" when one could afford the cost.

Uncle Fred renounced the seven acres of land that was given to him by the Yugoslavian Government for his services and came back to Canada in September, 1924. On May 21, 1927 his son Michael R. "Big Mike" arrived from Yugoslavia and for a few years they farmed near the Penhold bridge.

Uncle Fred was a great friend of children. He was also something of a culinary expert and could make a good meal out of almost nothing. Many a Sunday would find his "shack" full of young people who came to visit and partake in his specialty, chicken and noodles, and deep apple pie. He later moved to Red Deer and passed on, October 6, 1960 at the age of 80 years.

Big Mike moved to Red Deer and operated a construction firm for many years. He is now semi-retired and lives in Red Deer with his wife, the former Frances Lawson. Son Melvin is a lawyer in Calgary and daughter Marlene is in Social work in Lloydminster.

Not to be forgotten is Mother Maria's role in those early days. Like many pioneer women, she could grub stumps, stook grain, milk cows and always had a huge garden, twice too much of everything that would grow in the good soil. One can remember with pleasure coming home from school to the smell of her homemade bread and rolls in the oven and her words of encouragement which made you think you were having fun while doing

the evening chores and bringing in the night's supply of wood and water. Her job was especially hard during Nick's frequent illnesses in the Belcher hospital in Calgary.

The only job "Ma" refused to do was drive horses. That work befell the lot of daughter Helen who was a wonderful help and could drive a six horse team as good as any man and take the horse and buggy to town to deliver the can of cream and bring back the weekly supply of groceries and mail.

Nick Belich never realized his ambition of moving to the "Wilkinson place" but the family did move in 1952. However, the neighbors at the old place must be mentioned. To the south were Low's and Mrs. Reveyard from France; west — Harry Christie, a bachelor from Ontario; east — Jim Wright and family from England. The MacLeod family from the Hebrides settled to the north in 1923. The MacLeod's needed some seed oats that spring so the elder MacLeod, Norman, came to Nick one day. Upon examining a handful of seed, he found a black oat.

"Now what is this? That's a wild oat, they are black!"

With typical Scots thrift, Norman said, "Ach, I can see it's black, but will it grow?"

"You damn right it will grow!" Nick replied with justifiable conviction.

It is said that this is how the MacLeods got their start in wild oats. There is no record of where Nick got his first start, but the finger of suspicion points to the Braithwaites of Shady Nook.

Nick and Norman had many arguments during the 20 years of "Neighboring" political, theological and just anything at all but they were the best of friends. When Nick passed on in 1943, at the early age of 52, Norman paid him the greatest tribute possible. He personally laid a wreath on the casket.

Ma Belich continued to live on the farm until moving to town where she passed on August 3, 1967 at the age of 76.

Helen married Bob Ninkovich who was a miner by trade. In 1939 they built a house on the Wilkinson place. In 1948 Bob bought the S.W. 14-38-28 just west of the Indian School and severed by the Burnt Lake road. The house was moved to the new place where they lived until Bob's passing, February 16, 1969. Helen lived in the district until her untimely death January 30, 1973. Their family consists of three boys, George, Don and Lance all now residing in the area.

Martha married Jack Roth. They have three boys Greg, Jim and Don and one daughter Sandra and one granddaughter. Percy married Irene Popovich and they have a son, Stewart and Daughter Norana. They reside on a farm 8 miles N.W. of Red Deer. George married Elsie, a daughter of Steve and Nettie Biswanger nee Nettie Carswell who taught school at Shady Nook in 1907. George and Elsie have three daughters and two sons.

Nick married Marian Ranger, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Gus Ranger. They have a young son, Kurt.

Carol, now Mrs. Ron Hougestol, has two daughters, Bonnie and Rhonda.

Marie married Jack Mulroony and they have one son, Murray and one daughter Jackie Lynn. They live at Innisfail.

Danny and Debbie live at home.
Elsie passed away on March 29th, 1976.

BENSON, EARL AND JEAN

We moved to the Shady Nook District in September of 1958, having lived in the city of Red Deer since 1947. Earl was from Coronation and I came from Hoadley, Alberta formerly Jean Clark.

We used to take the children for car rides and drove by this acreage many times wondering if it was for sale. Finally one day we saw a man in the field (Don Morrison). We stopped and asked him who owned the place. He told us to write to Vic Raymer, which we did and finally were able to buy the five acres (S.W. 15-38-28-W4).

We have five children, Beatrice (Mrs. Rex Mayberry) of Ridgewood, Donna (Mrs. Merle Wells) of Penhold, Sheila (Mrs. Dan McNeil) of Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Kenneth, at home, and Peggy Rose Kendrew (Benson) also at home.

Our neighbors Mr. and Mrs. Mel Latam were a very great help to us during our first few years; so was Orville Gehrke who was actually our veterinarian. Earl works as a C.P. Rail Engineer and is away a lot working so I appreciated the help of my good neighbors.

— Jean Benson

BIKA, MR. AND MRS. ANDY

Bikas were a childless Hungarian couple who came to Shady Nook in 1934. Mrs. Bika did not speak English; her husband Andy translated for her. They lived on the S.E. of 15 for six years and then moved to the S.W. of 13. This 80 acre parcel, west of the Red Deer River was part of the original 400 acre grant given to the Indian School. The little house was down by the river at the west end of the old crossing.

Andy was a man who seemed to get a lot of satisfaction out of tackling heavy hard work. He spent several years working at cutting brush, stooking, threshing and odd jobs.

Bikas owned a dog that looked like a small, fine-boned collie. Several former members of the John Gehrke threshing crews recall seeing this dog run after and catch jack rabbits. When something chases a jack and gets close to it the rabbit suddenly turns, leaving the pursuer to pass by. This dog seemed to know when and which way the rabbit was going to turn and would grab it just after it turned. It consistently caught the big rabbits, and Bikas considered it a valuable dog as they were fond of eating rabbits.

Andy Bika last worked for John Gehrke in the fall of 1943. Early in 1944 they left Shady Nook to take up a homestead at Buck Lake. They loaded their few belongings in a light buggy which they had bought from John Gehrke. It was pulled by a single horse. About a year and a half after they left here, Mrs. Bika had a runaway with the little outfit and died as a result of the injuries sustained.

Andy later married again and raised one son, living many years in the Buck Lake area. He passed away in 1974, at the age of 83. His son still farms at Buck Lake.

BJORKLAND, VICTOR AND HENRY

Bjorkland's parents came to Ontario from Denmark in 1890 and on to Alberta in 1908. The home farm is in

the Horn Hill district. They rented the Indian School farm for five years from 1932 to 1937. The boys took turns staying at the school to supervise the farm. They milked 35 cows and kept about 100 pigs. Henry farms the home farm in Horn Hill. Vic was employed by the M.D. of Pine Lake for several years starting with them in 1922. In 1944 he went to work for the County of Red Deer and was at the head of the Agricultural Service Board. Bjorklands owned a half-section in Ridgewood for a few years (S. ½ 17-37-28-W4). Vic is retired now and lives in Red Deer.

BLAIN, FRED AND HULDA

The three Blain brothers Fred, George and John were nephews of Mrs. Charlie Hollenbeck of the Ridgewood district. In 1911 they came to live on the SW of 20-37-28-w4th. Many old timers will remember these athletic men and recall the many good games of baseball they played.

Fred married Hulda Sills, a daughter of Jerry Sills of Ridgewood, in 1919. They bought the Theodore Clauson homestead SE 30-37-28-w4th that year. Blains lived in and took an active part in the district until 1945.

During the 1930's when cattle were very cheap and many people were knocking calves on the head, Fred went around and bought quite a few of them. By the time they grew up big enough for market, prices had improved and he did very well on them.

Fred enjoyed hunting big game and most falls he was successful in bagging meat for the larder. Fred and Hulda were the proud parents of three daughters. Irene, born in 1920; Alice, born in 1922 and Virginia born in 1927; all married and moved to the U.S.A. Alice died in 1961. On April 17, 1945, Blains held an auction sale on the farm. The land was sold to George Mumford. Blains returned to Walla Walla, Washington. In their old age they lived in a nursing home there. Hulda passed away just before Christmas of 1974 and Fred died after Christmas the same year.



Mr. and Mrs. Fred Blain, Irene and Virginia.

BLAIN, LOREN AND LAURA

Mr. and Mrs. Loren Blain took up residence in the Shady Nook area August 31, 1975. Their land location is S.E.-34-37-27-W4.

Previous to that they lived in Red Deer city for two years, after moving from Innisfail. Loren commuted to Red Deer for work where he has his own accounting practice, operating under his own name.

Loren was born and raised east of Innisfail, in the Knee Hill Valley area. After completing school he worked for the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce for eight years, until he opened his own business in Red Deer.

Laura was raised in Edmonton. She was the former Laura Johnson. After completing school she did office work until her marriage to Loren in 1959. They took up residence in Red Deer at that time.

They have three boys, Bradley, fifteen, Brian, fourteen, and Allen, eight.



Loren and Laura Blain with sons Bradley, Allen and Brian.

BLAKELY, CHARLIE

Charlie Blakely came to Shady Nook with his brother Bird in 1919. He and his brother farmed in the district. Charlie married the former Kitty Marshall of England, in March of 1921. He had met Kitty while serving in the army, 1914 to 1918.

Charlie and Kitty had three children, Bob, Cecil and Doreen. They all attended the Shady Nook school. Charlie served on the school board for six years.

When tractors became popular Charlie left farming and went back to carpentry. Charlie and Kitty now live in Edmonton. Both are still enjoying good health. Their three children also live in the Edmonton area.

BLAKELY, BIRD AND ENA

Bird Blakely came to the Shady Nook district in 1919 from Peterborough, Ontario. In the fall of 1921 he was married to the former Ena Nash of Crossroads. Bird and Ena raised two boys, Jack who is still farming the



Jack Baker, Pat Mooney, Ena and Bird Blakely and sons Jack and Manly.

homeplace with his mother, and Manly, who passed away in 1968.

Ena Blakely came to Canada with her parents eighty-one years ago. She was the youngest passenger on board the ship from England, being only four months old.

Bird served in the army from 1914 to 1918.

Mr. Blakely was a carpenter, learning the trade in Toronto before coming west to Ladner, B.C. He spent ten years in B.C. before coming to Red Deer. He built the home, where Mrs. Blakely still resides, in 1949. The same year he built the Clifford Braithwaite home where Jim Braithwaite is still living. Bird also built the M.B. Motel at Sylvan Lake for his son Manly, as well as his son Jack's home, and several houses in Red Deer.

Bird had a great love for horses and cattle and farmed for many years with horses.

This account was written by Ena Blakely who is still enjoying good health and living on the farm.

BLAKELY, JACK AND PAULINE

Jack is the eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Bird Blakely of Shady Nook. He was born on December 29, 1922. After his schooling, he worked at home for a few years. He bought a truck and did commercial trucking for a couple of years and then worked setting up machinery and welding. He married Pauline Sookocheff on November 29, 1952. Pauline is a daughter of Peter and Pauline Sookocheff of Gleichen and later Calgary.

Jack returned to farming with his father until Bird's death. He farms now and has a new welding shop on the farm. Their home quarter (S.W. 16-38-28-W4) is at the east end of Burnt Lake. Blakelys have two children, Philip, born April, 1955 was married to Joanne Lessmeister of Red Deer on July 3, 1976. They live in Red Deer. Kathy, born in June, 1956, is living at home and works in Red Deer.

BLANCHARD, KENNETH AND MAUREEN

We came to Canada from Yorkshire, England in 1975, with our two children, Lynne and Paul. Both our fathers were coal miners. Ken's father made plans to come to Canada in 1926 but family circumstances prevented him from coming and this he regretted all his life.



Ken and Maureen Blanchard, Paul and Lynne, 1975.

We often talked of Canada and in 1967 Maureen's aunt and uncle came to Spruceview for four months and went back to England with such beautiful memories of the country and the people that they were in our minds for several years. Then the children came along, so we didn't give emigration much thought until 1974, when we realized that things were not too good in England. Ken had his own building firm and had done well, but the Government put a squeeze on building, so work was getting short and we found it harder to save with prices rising, even though Maureen worked too as an accountant.

Maureen began writing to her Great Aunt, Mrs. Flo Leighton of Spruceview, and Ken came over for two weeks in April, 1975. He liked Canada very much. He found Canadians very friendly people and the prospects for bricklayers very good so he returned to England and applied for permanent residence in Canada.

We flew out here August 4th, 1975 and were made very welcome by Mrs. Leighton and family. We moved to Red Deer where Ken is employed in construction and we rented a house on the North Hill for six months until we bought an acreage on the old Braithwaite place (part NE 21). It is like beginning all over again. We lost so much when we left England, and it will take a few years to build a business again. But we think it has all been worthwhile. We have never known such friendly, helpful people, and we feel at home. We still have a long way to go and lots to learn but we feel life is better and very rewarding. Our only regret is the heartbreak of leaving our families, but this we are mastering. Time is a great healer.

BOHLIN, MR. AND MRS.

We do not know Bohlins' first names or where they lived. In 1905 three daughters attended school in Shady Nook. Their names were Grace, Esther and Ruth. A notation in the school register, entered the first day of school in January, 1907 reads, "Gone to Montana".

BOLLINGER, REUBEN AND HELEN

Reuben was the fourth son in a family of eleven children. He was born to Henry and Barbara Bollinger of Piapot, Saskatchewan. It was so dry in that area there was only enough rain to make Reuben grow to 5' 7". In 1937 they decided not to seed any crops unless it rained. By July 7 there still was no rain so they moved to

Watrous, Saskatchewan. It was better there but Bollingers thought it was not enough difference from Piapot to suit them, so Henry and Barbara moved to the Crossroads district just north of Red Deer.

Reuben received all his schooling at Piapot. He spent the war years in the Air Force and after he received his discharge in the later part of 1945 he came to join his parents at Red Deer. Reuben bought the Thornton farm S.W. of 11 and later most of the Herb Stewart farm as well and is one of the lucky people who own a river farm.

Reuben was playing the piano at a wedding dance in Watrous one night when he saw a lovely young lady there. She was Helen Wisminity, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Martin Wisminity and Reuben lost little time in starting to court her. They were married in 1948 and had five children; Beverly, born in 1949, now Mrs. Lowell Ask of Red Deer; Theresa, born in 1953, now Mrs. Peter Turtton of Red Deer; Janice, born in 1954, now Mrs. Jim Calliou of Clive; Ricky born April 5, 1960 lives at home; and Dwane, born June 6, 1962, passed away December 24, 1975.

The Bollingers enjoyed taking part in some three-act plays put on by the Shady Nook people. Reuben was a member of the Shady Nook Sodbusters orchestra and in his younger days he played some pretty good baseball too. He recalls going to a dance at Asplund hall on New Year's Eve. It was 40 degrees above zero when the dance started. Soon a blizzard began to blow and before they could drive home it was more than 30 degrees below zero. They consider themselves lucky to have made it home all the way that night.

Among the several hobbies Reuben has are fancy woodwork and fishing. So far the fishing has produced more big stories than it has big fish, however he still enjoys trying. The Bollingers run a mixed farm with pigs, cattle and grain. It is always a pleasure to drive by and see the unique iron work in the driveway and the fine crops produced on this farm.

What a fine tribute to our district to hear Reuben and Helen say "As we look back over the past thirty years we bless the day we decided to make Shady Nook our home."

BOND, BILL

Mr. Bond homesteaded S.E. ¼ 30-37-28-4 in 1894. Bond came from Michigan, U.S.A. There were other members of this family who lived west of Pine Hill district. Most of the Bonds moved to B.C. around 1909, probably Bill Bond moved there also at that time.

While living here in the early days, Mr. Bond shot a sow bear on section 29 (school section). He used some of it for meat, and gave some meat to his neighbors. He also caught three young cubs, and raised them in an old log shack. They fed out of a trough like pigs. Many people used to go there and watch the bears feed and play. When they grew up they became so aggressive, Bond could no longer handle them.

BOOMER, GERALD AND MARY

Gerald and Mary bought acreage S.W. 15-38-28-W4th in the spring of 1972 from Marj Latam. They had lived in the city of Red Deer for twenty-five years. They have five children, Sharon (now Mrs. Lloyd Quantz), Lois (Mrs. Leslie Mcrae), Jean (Mrs. Wayne Pederson)

all living in Calgary; Allan is taking grade 12 at Red Deer and Jack is attending school at River Glen.

Gerald is a road contractor and enjoys hunting and fishing. He is also fond of horses. The whole family are avid hockey fans and son Allan plays hockey with the Elks Chiefs Juveniles. Mary enjoys her garden and flowers.

BOTTING, DR. GARY NORMAN ARTHUR

Gary Botting was born in England in 1943; and his father was killed in the war when Gary was two months old. The Botting family goes back to the Middle Ages, when a distant ancestor was King John's executioner. That accounts for a grizzly sense of humour.

Gary came to Canada in 1954 with his mother and two sisters; they settled in Peterborough, Ontario, but when he was sixteen, Gary got the travelling bug. His hobby of bug-collecting paid off handsomely: his research into the genetics of silk moths won him a trip to India with the U.S. National Academy of Sciences in 1960. In 1961, he returned to Canada, yearned for more excitement, and so went to Europe where he smuggled



Dr. Gary Botting and daughter Tanya and lead dog in his dog team, Manitou, 1975.



Gary and Heather Botting, 1977 (see Harden).



Trent and Tanya Botting, 1977.

Bibles "and other seditious literature" into Spain. Most of his friends were arrested, but his "Spanish Experience" led to his decision to become a missionary overseas.

He went to Hong Kong that fall and stayed there until 1964, when he returned to Ontario and university. While in Hong Kong he had been military correspondent for the South China Morning Post, and he worked as a journalist all the time he was at university. He received his BA from Trent, his MA from Memorial University of Newfoundland, and his Ph.D. from the University of Alberta. He started teaching Creative Writing at Red Deer College in 1972, living in Red Deer, Sylvan Lake and Shady Nook (S.W.4-38-28-W4). He is married to anthropologist Heather Harden (q.v.).

Now an established Canadian writer, Gary has published eleven books, has four more completed and awaiting publication, and is working on three others. "Writing is like farming," he says. "Each book is a crop, and I use the crop rotation method!"

BOUCHARD, CHARLIE AND WIFE

Mr. Bouchard was the fourth agent at the Cygnet elevator and had the distinction of serving for the longest period of all. He served from 1933 to the end of 1939. It is no secret that he was not as well regarded by his customers as were the rest of the agents.

There were no children born to this couple. Mrs. Bouchard was a large plump, jolly woman.

One time Mr. Bird Blakely felt he had been unfairly dealt with and in order to seek justice had written a complaint to the head office of the U.G.G. Co. A couple of months after he received a check in the mail for 30 cents. He fired the check right back to head office, requesting that it be made out to Mr. Bouchard as it would buy just enough gas to get him to hell out of Shady Nook. The company used good judgement and followed this advice a short time later.

Mr. Bouchard while here seldom missed an opportunity to tell his favorite story. It was about a lynx that had a den along the railway tracks west of Cygnet.

On a quiet summer evening it was often possible to sit around and listen to them call. They have a weird sort of cry. Mr. Blakely had a hay crew in the bunk house at the time. The path to their yard went through a plot of grain. Mr. Jack Moore, an English lad, had been out late and on coming through the grain heard something near by. Jack was afraid of lynx; suddenly something leapt up at him; with all the speed possible he headed for the bunk house, crashed open the door and made a flying leap to the top bunk, which was already occupied. It took some time before he settled down enough to catch his breath so he could tell what had happened.

Well next morning there was a very friendly English Sheep Dog in the yard. Long hair all over it, so much so that it was hard to tell the head from the tail. Jack was surprised and made the mistake of exclaiming "That is what jumped on me last night." He wasn't allowed to forget the incident and is believed to be touchy about the subject to this day.

BRAITHWAITE, GEORGE ALLEN AND MARY

Al Braithwaite and Mary Mouncey, both of Roseneath Ont. were married in June of 1882. Of this union two children were born, Laura in 1883 and Clifford in 1887. Al wanted to be a farmer and about the time he thought he'd have a chance to start on the home farm, his father got married for the third time and started another family. Al worked at various jobs for eight or nine years, and then became attracted by the adventure and romance of building the Panama Canal. Down he went to the malaria swamps of Panama for the better part of a year. He promptly caught the fever. Recurring bouts of malaria were to plague him all the rest of his life.

Al made his way up the west coast of North America, as far as Vancouver, then over to Red Deer, where several old neighbours of the Braithwaites and the Mounceys were homesteading. He filed on N.W. 26-37-26-4. Mary and the children joined him in September of 1892 to begin a new life on the farm. The only transportation they had the first year was a stoneboat pulled by a mixed team, one horse and one ox. Not a very stylish outfit! It was a slow and tedious way to go to town for groceries.

In 1893 they bought a Harris wagon, which is still in use today. Al made a set of sleighs out of a grove of white birch. He also made all the furniture they owned. Money was very scarce the first few years. It seemed as though anything they could not make they had to do without. The barn windows were made of heavy white paper, oiled to make it transparent. The hinges for the door was a luxury they could not afford, the door had a bar across it which set in brackets. Each time they entered, the door was lifted out and leaned against the wall. Al, or Mexico Al as he was often called, was an excellent story teller and used to spend the long winter evenings entertaining visitors with long and interesting stories. He whittled toys out of wood to make presents for birthdays and Christmas. When the Springvale School was built of logs he helped to build it and made all the desks and furniture for it as well. He was the man who cut a sleigh trail up the divide hill to open a road to the coal field at Ardley. Hauling coal to Red Deer became a source of cash for many settlers after that. It took two days to make the round trip. After mining the coal for one's load, one

received the handsome fee of \$5.00 for two hard days of work and long travels.

Laura passed away in June of 1900 and in December of the same year Al died in his sleep. Mary and Clifford returned for a visit with their relatives in Ontario. They did not like it there as well as the more free and interesting life on the Western frontier, so back they came to Alberta and in 1902 Mary married Jim Dawson and moved to the Dawson homestead on the banks of the Red Deer, in the south east corner of Shady Nook.

BRAITHWAITE, CLIFFORD AND HAZEL

Cliff was the only son of George Allen and Mary. He was born at Roseneath, Ontario in 1887 and at the tender age of five years became a pioneer of the Springvale district. The log cabin on the homestead was not quite liveable when Mary and the children arrived from the east. Bert Smith's family came from Ontario on the same train. The ladies and children were met at the station by the menfolk with a team and democrat.

All the belongings of the two families were piled on and the ladies and babies had a ride home. The two boys, Bert and Cliff, both five years old, and their fathers carrying suit cases walked the thirteen long miles to the Smith residence. Before they left Red Deer that afternoon they all went to a restaurant for a meal. They ordered pork sausages and mashed potatoes. It was a new experience for Cliff as he had not seen pork sausages before.

Like most children, in a strange place and with strange food, he refused to eat the sausages. When pressed for an answer as to why not, he said he thought they were dog poo. If the little fellow, weary from the long train ride, had any idea how far a walk of thirteen miles was going to be, he would have eaten heartily!

The Braithwaite homestead was across the road from the Springvale school; so he didn't have far to go to school. In those days most children went barefoot quite a lot. One time Cliff was barefoot at school when an untimely snowstorm came along. After school was out, not having more than a quarter mile to go, Cliff headed home on the run. You can bet he really picked them up and planted them that day and made it home in record time!

The first winter the Braithwaites lived mostly in a tent in the corner of the house in an effort to keep warm.



Braithwaite family 1938. Back — Jim, George, Eva, Tom. Front — Clifford, Dorothy, Johnny and Hazel.



Clifford and Hazel Braithwaite with their first car 490 Chev, 1921.

Cliff went to Springvale school till the end of grade five. That ended his formal education. He was fortunate in having as his teacher, the renowned J. W. McLean. McLean was a disciplinarian of the old school, a non-sense sort of guy. There were several big boys going to school at the time and if they misbehaved McLean picked them up and heaved them through the door. Occasionally, a parent would come to protest about their boy being treated in such a manner and if he thought the parent was too unreasonable, he threw them out, too. The older boys often carried shotguns to school. Game birds were plentiful and an important item of food so they harvested them along the way. All the guns had to be unloaded before they reached the school yard, then stacked in a corner until school was out.

One evening while eating supper, quite a lot of shooting started going on. The bullets were thudding into the log walls of the house. When it stopped, the Braithwaites began cautiously to investigate what had happened. The Code family lived just kitty corner to the Braithwaite farmstead and some of the Code boys had been shooting at a partridge in a tree. The west was known as the wild and woolly west and the Code boys that evening had done all they could to make it true!

After the death of Al and with the marriage of his mother to Jim Dawson in the summer of 1902, Cliff came to live in Shady Nook. Three years later he filed for a homestead on the S.E. of 16-37-28-W.4. In 1918 he bought the Whitworth farm. He lived at home with his mother and stepfather until 1921. That year he bought the Dawson homestead plus the East ½ of 21. Also in that year he married Hazel Eva Jones.

During the early years Cliff made his living raising hereford cattle and horses of mixed breeding. He had many times seen fine teams of work horses brought in from other areas only to die off from swamp fever. He started out with locally raised ones, they were small and hardy and resistant to many ills that bothered other horses. It usually took five of them to do the work that four bigger ones could do. He gradually increased the size of his horses so that prior to and during the 1920's he had quite a few large horses.

There was a depression following the war of 1914-18. Livestock numbers in Canada had reached a peak and

the winter of 1919-20 started in early October with a blizzard and three feet of snow. Feed was scarce and high priced. Those farmers who bought feed to winter their stock found because of a crash in prices that it had cost more to winter the stock than they could sell them for in the years that followed. Demand for grain was high so most farmers started breaking land for crops. Cliff certainly cleared his share of brush in this district. He spent quite a few years taking most of the forest off five quarters. Grain growing became the main enterprise on the Braithwaite farm until Cliff retired in 1955. The horse population reached a peak in numbers in Canada in 1921. Thereafter there was a steady decline, due to mechanization. In 1927 a 12-27 Rumely was purchased. One six-horse team was used in the fields until 1937 and after that horses, except for a chore team and a couple of school ponies became unimportant on the farm.

Cliff enjoyed growing grain, especially seed grain. He made a lot of use of research material from the experimental farms and universities and introduced several new varieties to the area west of the Red Deer River as far out as Spruce View and Rocky Mountain House. I believe Cliff was the first one in the area to secure Olli barley, a new and early-maturing variety. Frost was a big problem at that time in many areas. One year he received a multiple order from the Dixon area. It was for 240 bushels made up of thirty-nine separate orders, the largest one 25 bushels and the smallest 1½ bushels. No other barley before or since has had the widespread use for as long a period of time as did Olli. It was an important factor in the area covered by this book in creating the income necessary to finance the modernization of agriculture.

In 1955 Cliff sold the farm to his sons, George and Jim. He was elected to the council of the M.D. of Red Deer that year and served until 1969 when he stepped down, aged 82, to be succeeded by Les Edgar. This was his second stint on council. He had served on the council of the M.D. of Golden West, whose seat was in Sylvan Lake, from the early 1920's into the 1930's. He maintained executive positions in several farming and community selfhelp organizations and for many years was a trustee on the Shady Nook school board. In 1967 Cliff compiled his own colorful and accurate account of the homestead period. From the information he left and stories he told, much of the material on the early pioneers of the Shady Nook District has been obtained.

Hazel was born to Mr. and Mrs. William Walter Jones at Little Current, Manitoulin Island, Ontario in 1905. In 1910 her father was sent out from Ontario by the Great West Lumber Co. to work in their winter camps and to boss the log drives on the river in the spring and summer.

Hazel started school at the old Red Deer Central. Three years later they moved to a farm in the Springvale district. From there they moved to Waskasoo for three years and then to Valley Center. At Valley Center she walked six miles to school. In 1921 she married Clifford Braithwaite. Together they raised a family of four boys and two girls.

George was born in 1921, Eva, 1922; Jim, 1924; Tom, 1926; John, 1927; and Dorothy in 1929. Eva married Frank Johnson and they had four children. Eva is now Mrs. Earl Morris of Blackfalds. Dorothy married

Merrill Johnson (deceased) and has two daughters. They make their home in Sylvan Lake.

Hazel has always been active in farm organizations and in 1947 went in as director of the Farm Women's Union of Alberta. She served a term as vice-president and then was president for five years ending in 1963. She is now a life member of the organization. In 1965 she was a candidate for the N.D.P. party. She was on the advisory committee for the agricultural schools for four years and was western representative on the Canadian Federation of Agriculture and numerous other boards. She was elected by the Farm Women's Union to represent the Associated Country Women of the World in Toronto. In 1959 she led the women's delegation to the A.C.W.W. conference in Edinborough, Scotland. She again led the delegation to Australia in 1962.

Clifford passed away in February, 1975 at the age of 87 years. Hazel now makes her home in Sylvan Lake where she is still a busy and active member of that community. She was recently elected to the Senate of the University of Alberta.

BRAITHWAITE, GEORGE WILLIAM AND AUDREY

The Braithwaite family arrived in Red Deer in April, 1891, when the total population of the settlement was only 50 people. They came from Roseneath, Ontario.

The family of my wife, the former Audrey Schaefer, came from Bruce County, Ontario and settled in the Innisfail district in 1894. Her grandfather worked on the first traffic bridge across the river at Red Deer and also the bridge across the Blindman River just south of Blackfalds on the old Calgary to Edmonton highway.

I was born in October, 1921 at Mrs. Symons' Nursing Home in Red Deer. I was the eldest of four boys and two girls of the Clifford and Hazel Braithwaite family.

We lived in a log house on the west side of the Red Deer River on the S.W. quarter of 22-37-28-W.4. As young people, the river provided many hours of sport and pleasure. During the summer, many hours were spent swimming and exploring the course of the stream. Our saddle horses were very accustomed to the water and without hesitation would ford the river or swim whenever it became necessary to do so. During the winter months the river would flood periodically, providing miles and miles of perfect ice to skate on. Many times we skated from our place to Red Deer on the river. It was easy going down the river, but the homeward stretch required much more effort as it was up hill all the way!

We lived three and one half miles from the Shady Nook School, so, because of the distance I suppose, my parents thought that I needed the help of my younger sister, Eva. I was kept home until she was old enough to go to school also. This made me almost eight years old.

I remember the first day at school well. Dad drove us in the car and we arrived just about morning recess time. The teacher was a very nice lady by the name of Miss Margaret McConnell from Red Deer. Dad knocked on the door and when this nice looking young lady came to the door, Dad said, "I have brought you a couple of greenhorns." They had a little laugh about it, but that was when I first realized what a greenhorn was.

We rode horseback to school and always had good saddle horses. Dad took a great deal of pride in having



George, Janice, Donald, Bob and Audrey Braithwaite, 1966.

good horses for they were the only source of power we had for many years. We rode saddle horses to school until all six of us children were going; then Dad purchased an old Studebaker democrat that had been used by Ernie Kirk of Red Deer to deliver mail on R.R. No. 4. It was pulled by a team of horses and was almost the forerunner of the school bus. On occasions, John and Kathleen Butler, and Bill and Mary McCune would ride with us making ten kids in all in the old democrat.

My sister, Eva, and I completed grade nine at the Shady Nook School and then finished our high school in Red Deer.

By this time World War Two was going strong. I remember the day in a Social Studies Class when Mr. Art Allen, the teacher, informed the students that war had broken out in Europe and explained the implications. He told us that before it was over most of the boys in the class would see service overseas. He was so correct, for within a month many of the boys had enlisted and were away training.

I joined the Air Force in 1942 and received my honorable discharge in 1945, with the rank of Flying Officer. I had spent two years overseas completing a tour of operations.

Following the war I purchased a quarter section of land, with the assistance of the Veteran's Land Act, from Mr. John Lutz. This was the S.W. quarter of 34-37-28-W.4.

The winters of 1946-47 and 1947-48 were spent at the Olds Agricultural College learning the finer points of Agriculture and farming.

These were good years and somewhat carefree as I look back. It was here that I won the Robert Gardiner Memorial Scholarship sponsored by the U.F.A. Co-op.

Audrey taught school at Poplar Ridge for two years, then another two years at Olds while I was attending College. Upon my graduation, she finally agreed, after several years, to become Mrs. Braithwaite and so in July, 1948, we were married.

Our wedding was in the Gaetz Memorial United Church in Red Deer. This church was later destroyed by fire but has since been replaced.

While on our honeymoon through the northwestern part of the U.S.A. we had to go through customs at the border. The officials were not busy on this occasion and

so were in a visiting mood. After talking for fifteen to twenty minutes, we decided to be on our way. One of the officials asked us what our names were again. I replied, "George Braithwaite" and my wife said, "Audrey Schaefer." The fellow chuckled out loud and as we drove away he called out, "Have a good time, Audrey and George!"

Upon our return, we lived in the old log house on the farm we had bought. This house had been constructed in 1894 by a Mr. Wilson who had purchased the homestead rights to this land at that time. Before we could set up housekeeping we had to dislodge the other creatures that had made similar plans, such as the mice, pigeons and even porcupines! Mr. and Mrs. Adolph Schock were near neighbors and with their kind and generous help, we got the house back to normal and redecorated. We were very comfortable even though the house had seen better years.

I was always very interested in sports. Dad would provide us with anything we needed in the line of sports equipment or books by noted authorities on how to train and exercise.

It was not easy to do the necessary training for the big meets after the day's work was done. It seemed easier to relax or to go to bed. The school districts held joint sports days and later on all the schools in an Inspector's district would compete. I think it was Mr. W. J. McLean, the inspector, who initiated these larger scale track meets. Just by way of interest, Mr. McLean was one of my Dad's first school teachers at the Springvale school just east of Red Deer.

However, I had some ability along the athletic lines and in 1942, just prior to joining the R.C.A.F., entered in the provincial competitions held in Edmonton. I was fortunate enough to place third in the 220-yard sprint and fourth in the 100-yard dash.

Baseball and hockey were other sports that farm boys found time to play. There were many good rural hockey teams as well as ball teams and the local boys received strong and enthusiastic support from their home districts. Rural hockey tournaments were an annual event for a number of years. If your team was good enough to keep winning in a tournament, you could play as many as four games in one day. Believe me, it was all-out hockey! The Shady Nook team had four Braithwaite boys on it for several years. I believe we got into the finals two or three times and, although we never won a tournament, we had the other teams plenty worried at times.

A few years later, I had the opportunity to play ball in Calgary with the Alberta Wheat Pool team known as the "Wheat Kernels". We won the league one year and I also had the honour to be chosen as one of the all star pitchers to play exhibition ball to raise money for charitable purposes.

In 1949, I accepted a position with the Alberta Wheat Pool as a Public Relations Representative in Calgary. This required that we move to Calgary where we lived for the next two years. These were slightly frustrating years. Firstly, moving from the farm and living in the city was a complete change of environment. Secondly, I had to reorientate myself from a farm boy attitude to a polished, confident representative of a large farm co-operative organization. Every contact you made created an image of the organization that you worked for.

It was while living in Calgary that William Robert (Bob) and Janice Marie were born.

In 1951 we were transferred to Vermilion, about 120 miles east of Edmonton. This was a very friendly little town and we made many good friends while living there.

When Bob and his little friend were about four years old, they would ride their tricycles back and forth on the sidewalk which wasn't too wide to begin with. They just took the right of way and the pedestrians were supposed to step aside for them. Several houses down the street lived an elderly English gentleman. His house was located at the back of the lot and the kids all said it was haunted. Possibly, he had told them this for good reasons. However, on this particular day, he was walking uptown carrying a large, brown paper shopping bag when he met these two speedsters coming on their tricycles. He told them that if he caught them again he was going to put them both in his big brown bag, take them home, put them in the oven and roast them real good. This restored order to the sidewalk traffic for awhile at least, and was much more effective than any method the parents had tried.

Audrey and I lived in Vermilion for four years and it was here that we made one of the most difficult decisions, whether to stay on staff or return to the farm. The job offered good security and a possibility of advancement. If we went farming, could we make grocery money? Many farmers were having serious problems at that time. Finally, we decided to give farming a real try and in 1955 we moved back to Red Deer. It was here, in December of that year, that our second son, Donald Earl was born.

We started out with some registered brood sows and some beef cattle until we could work out a more definite farming program. Dairying seemed to be the enterprise that offered the most security at that time, and so, we made plans to develop a dairy operation. We eventually milked approximately fifty Holstein cows. I often wonder if we really made money from the dairy operation or whether it was the money we saved by having to stay at home during those years. It was very steady in every regard. The regulations pertaining to fluid milk production were very rigid and were becoming more so. This fact made it difficult to obtain hired help. Many of them just could not see the importance of it all and simply would not make the required effort; however, the agricultural exchange students such as the Dutch, English and Danish boys were very good.

As we acquired more land and larger machinery we eventually disposed of the dairy operation. We produced a lot of grain the following years, but, as usual, a surplus was created and the price went down and down. We could not move a bushel. One year in particular, we had a five bushel quota for barley, which was the main crop, and the price was 62.5 cents a bushel or \$3.12 an acre. We had already spent \$7.00 an acre for fertilizer alone, to say nothing of the other farm expenses, as well as our living expenses. We sold barley to the feeders and feed mills for 50 cents a bushel delivered and they were still trying to find cheaper grain.

It wasn't easy to satisfy the creditors either, but somehow we survived and got going again, along with the rest of the farmers.

During those years, I took an active part in organizing the present Co-op store in Red Deer and served as

president of the Board of Directors for a number of years. The store has grown to a very successful operation and with new board members and management, it continues to be a credit to the community.

During those years, Audrey did considerable substitute teaching in the Sylvan Lake, Red Deer and the Ponoka area where we lived for a few years. She was also one of the leaders of the Horn Hill Girl's 4-H Clothing Club for several years. As the family grew up and started on their own she did less, but is still called upon occasionally by the Department of Youth to judge the work of the girls for the Achievement Days.

In 1955, I attempted to get elected as a Wheat Pool Delegate, but Fred Domoney from Penhold was too much for me and he won the election. In 1956, the year of redistribution of the Wheat Pool sub-districts, Fred was left in a corner of the new sub-district while I was almost in the center. After a lively campaign by both candidates, I narrowly won the election.

After serving in this capacity for four years I was elected to the Board of Directors upon the retirement of Mr. Bill Blair from Naco. Then in 1975 I was elected Second Vice-President and in December of the same year, I received a plaque in recognition of twenty-five years service for the Alberta Wheat Pool.

During all these years, while I was away at conventions and other meetings it has been very demanding on Audrey attending to the details of the farm operation. It seemed rather hectic at times, trying to get as much done as possible before leaving for a meeting or to catch a plane, bus or train. Sometimes we missed our transportation in Red Deer and we would catch it down the road one or two stations, but we always made it!

Our family consists of:

William Robert — born in August, 1949 and now living at Clive, Alberta. He married Marlene Snoxell of Lyalta and they have two children; Robert Lon, February, 1975; Catherine Leigh, June, 1976.

Janice Marie — born November, 1950 and married to F. A. (Bud) Soderberg of Red Deer. They have two children; Albert Troy, January, 1973 and Cari Marie, June, 1975.

Donald Earl — born December, 1955 and has been working on oil well crews throughout Alberta and the Northwest Territories.

In 1972 we purchased an Appaloosa Stallion, registered as Dominos Pride, No. 4196. He had an impressive show record as a yearling. As a three year old, we showed him in the Canadian National Appaloosa Show, where he won first in the three year old class, was the Reserve Grand Champion of the show, and also stood second as the most colorful horse of the show. He has sired a number of outstanding foals with excellent dispositions.

In 1975 we sold most of the machinery and leased out the crop land, retaining the hay and pasture land. One might say we are now hobby farmers. We raise registered Appaloosa saddle horses, registered Charolais and Blonde d' Aquitaine cattle.

Many farms are named today and we thought it would be nice to have ours named also; but to find a suitable and appropriate name offered a challenge. After considerable thought, we decided to call it "Roseneath Farms". Our decision was influenced by the fact that it

was from Roseneath, Ontario that my Grandparents and my Dad came. Secondly, the rose is the floral emblem of Alberta. Roseneath, Ontario was named after a small village in Scotland and it means "neath the roses". Our registered herd name is also "Roseneath".

In choosing a cattle brand many ideas were considered but to find one that was available created a problem. Since there were five members of the George Braithwaite family, we settled for the B5. Now, to find a third character to make a legal brand. We did not think that we qualified as whole diamonds, but that we might be accepted as half diamonds! And so our brand was registered as B5 on either the left or right hip.

Having made our home in several areas in Alberta, we have made many valued friends that we treasure highly; but my home district of Shady Nook will always have special significance for the Braithwaite family.

We are now making our home east of Bowden in the Nisbet School District.

BRAITHWAITE, JIM AND EDITH

Jim, second son of Clifford and Hazel Braithwaite, was born March 10, 1924. He attended school at Shady Nook and Red Deer. He also took a two year course in agriculture at the O.S.A. from 1945 to 1947. Jim farmed with his father for several years until C. R. Braithwaite retired from farming in 1955. Jim enjoyed several sports and started playing ball and hockey with the men's teams in 1938. Farming has been a satisfying and challenging way of life for him. He enjoys the peace and beauty of the Red Deer River valley and recalls as a youngster idling away many happy days along the river and climbing the girders of the A.C.R. bridge.

Edith's father, Andrew Rodvang was born in Valdres, Norway in 1885. Being the third son on a very small farm he decided to emigrate to North America in 1905. He joined his older brother in Minnesota where they stayed about a year before coming to Alberta to homestead in the Battle Lake area, west of Wetaskiwin. They found this to be very poor land so left this area in 1909 and took up homesteads at Throne. They both remained bachelors until 1926 when Andrew returned to Norway where he married Ragnhild Rodvang. The honeymoon was a trip back to the homestead at Throne. Edith was born December 30, 1929 and is the third of five children. She attended school at Throne and later took home economics at the O.S.A. from 1946-1948. In January, 1949 she came to Red Deer and worked at the hospital and later at the Central Alberta Dairy Pool until her marriage to Jim in November, 1951.

Jim and Edith experienced considerable difficulties in getting established on the farm as during the fifties, six hail storms clobbered their crops. They switched to buying steers for pasture and feed lot and had several good years. In 1963 they purchased a farm at Beaverlodge, so rented their land to Bickleys and moved to Beaverlodge in the spring of 1964. After taking off two crops there they returned to Shady Nook in the fall of 1965.

Shortly after his return, Jim started supervising the "Red Deer Feeders Association" and during the next seven years had the satisfaction of helping many young farmers get established in farming.

Jim and Edith have a family of six children. Daniel, born October 14, 1952, now has his fourth class papers in steam engineering and is at present employed at ASH -



Back Row — Linda, Edith, Patricia, Tanis and Laurie. Front Row — Jim, Daniel and Clifford Braithwaite 1976.

Deerhome. Linda, born March 7, 1954 graduated in diagnostic radiology at Foothills hospital in 1975. Wishing to see the Maritime provinces she accepted her first job at Moncton, New Brunswick. Laurie, born February 22, 1956 is taking medical laboratory technology at SAIT and Foothills hospital in Calgary. Patricia, born May 24, 1959, graduated from grade twelve in 1976 and is taking a year off from school to work and travel. Clifford, born February 16, 1963 and Tanis born August 30, 1965 at Beaverlodge are attending River Glen School in Red Deer.

BRAITHWAITE, TOM AND FAY

Thomas Robert Braithwaite is one of the Braithwaite brothers, who own a half section of land in the Shady Nook district. He is the third son of Mr. and Mrs. C. R. Braithwaite.

Tom was born at home on January 8th, 1926. He started school after the Easter holiday when he was six years old and finished grade 12 high school in Red Deer at the age of 17. He applied for a special army officers training program and while waiting for acceptance he worked in northern British Columbia on road and bridge construction. The army course included basic training and one year of engineering at university. Tom then spent two years overseas in Holland and Germany. After his discharge from the army, he went back to the University of Alberta for three years of mining engineering, graduating in May, 1949. He took a job with Negus Mines in Yellowknife, N.W.T.

Tom and Carol Fay Beauchamp were married on September 3, 1949, in Edmonton. Fay Beauchamp was born in Edmonton. Both her parents came to Alberta in the early 1900s and met and married out here. Her father came from Glengarry County, Ontario, and their family is the sixth generation born in Canada on the Beauchamp side.

Their eldest daughter, Carol Ann was born in Yellowknife on September 18, 1950. The family moved from Yellowknife on September 30, 1950 — just getting their furniture and belongings on the last barge out before winter freeze-up. Tom took a job in eastern Canada with Kerr Addison Gold Mines, working in the engineering office. The family lived in the mining town called Virginiatown, Ontario, just east of Kirkland Lake,



Tom and Fay Braithwaite and daughters Hazel, Pearl and Carol.

and spent about one and a half years there. They then moved on to Wawa, Ontario on the northern shore of Lake Superior in April of 1952.

Tom again worked in the engineering office for Algoma Ore Properties. Their second daughter, Hazel Janet, was born there on October 11, 1952. Tom spent about four and a half years with Algoma Ore Properties and thereafter the family moved to Elliot Lake, Ontario, in January, 1956, where Tom was Chief Engineer for Algoma Uranium Mines. They had a comfortable home there on the mine townsite and these were the early days of several mines in the area which were just going into production. They saw the town of Elliot Lake grow from one row of houses to a city to house more than 15,000.

Their third daughter, Pearl Louise, was born on April 14, 1956 in Blind River Hospital; as Elliot Lake did not have a hospital and only had a doctor for a couple of months and the roads were mostly closed because of spring break-up, Fay was flown out just before the ice on the lakes broke up. Tom, Fay and their three daughters lived at Elliot Lake for five years and then moved to Esterhazy, Saskatchewan. In January, 1961, Tom started working for International Mineral & Chemical Company of America on the engineering staff. He was with I.M.C. when they successfully closed off heavy waterbearing areas of the shaft, which enabled them to mine the potash salts. Tom was given the responsibility of locating and sinking the second shaft for this mine.

When this shaft was completed, Tom took a job with Cementation Co. and the family then moved to Brampton, Ontario, in August of 1966. This latter company was a shaft sinking company and Tom travelled to all parts of North America. Tom was a special adviser to the

American Atomic Energy Commission and visited many of their testing sites. He made three trips to Amchitka Island to help with the shaft work for their successful nuclear testing.

Tom changed companies again in the fall of 1974 — this time returning to a new section of the company of International Mineral & Chemical. This is a resource company and Tom travels and gives appraisals of mines that the company might acquire. He works from a downtown Toronto office, travels to work on the "GO" train and they now live in Mississauga, Ontario, a lovely wooded area which reminds them of their wilderness homes in the north.

Two of their daughters have married. Carol graduated with a diploma in Occupational and Physiotherapy from the University of Toronto in 1972. Two years later on September 7th, 1974, she married Naeem Puri.

Hazel graduated with a Bachelor of Mathematics from the University of Waterloo in 1974 and the following year married Donald Gordon Woollard on June 21st.

Pearl is a student and will be taking her third year at St. Lawrence College in Kingston and hopes to graduate from the Behavioural Science Technology course.

BRAITHWAITE, JOHN AND ELAINE

John is the youngest son of Hazel and Clifford Braithwaite. Very early in life he developed a great appreciation of the outdoors, and spent many idyllic youthful days "exploring" the Red Deer River, usually with the family dog, the .22, and his father's home-made river-boat. At about age 10, he discovered a rock on the shore that was "just chockfull of diamonds" and his fortune was made! His dad had the unhappy chore of explaining that sometimes micras and quartzites also sparkle brightly, but were not very valuable.

An annual highlight to river valley living was the spring break-up when the river ice "went out". It was an awesome display of power to see and hear the river in full spring flood, with the floating ice-pans grinding, churning and groaning their deep roars as the river flowed and jammed, rose and broke the jam, and flowed again. Small wonder that the four Braithwaite boys had their "tails tanned good", when their father caught them playing tag on one such ice jam!



John and Elaine, Roderick, Debra and Kenneth Braithwaite, 1975.



John Braithwaite enjoying a lazy afternoon on the Red Deer River.

After attending Shady Nook and Red Deer High School, John studied agriculture at Olds and business in Calgary. Always a sports enthusiast, he could usually be found where the hockey action was. Brothers John, Jim and George were among the inordinate numbers of Red Deer boys who played on the Olds College Hockey Team.

John, who lives in Calgary, has been involved in the oil industry in Western Canada since leaving the farm and is currently heavily involved in Arctic exploration and development.

John's wife, formerly Elaine Unterschultz, has maintained her interest and involvement in music as writer, organist, and choir director. Some of her music has been published and produced.

They have three children: Kenneth (1951) at university in Edmonton, last year of Law; Debra (1954) at university in Victoria, B.C., Science major; and Roderick (1956) at university in Calgary.

John and Elaine lived on the farm the first year of their marriage and still have an interest in some land in Shady Nook.

BRATKE, HERMAN AND IDA

Herman and Ida Bratke came to the Ridgewood district from Saskatchewan in 1918 and on to Shady Nook in 1925. Herman was the elevator man at Cygnet for three years. In 1928 they moved to Bentley, where he took over the Cockshut Agency for three years. They moved from there to Red Deer.

There were five children; Herman, Blanche, Kenneth, Helen and Edna.

BROBECK

A man named Brobeck lived for a few months on S.W. 2-38-28-4 at the turn of the century. He seems to have been a rough character. A man named Hanson, from Eckville, left Red Deer with Brobeck to go to Hanson's farm there. Hanson never arrived and was later found dead in the bush on 29-38-27, just east of Ralph Roth's present farm. Hanson had been killed with a shotgun. Brobeck was not charged because of lack of evidence.

BROMLEY, J.

Mr. Bromley was an unknown taxpayer in 1930.

BROWN, F. S.

Mr. Brown homesteaded the N.W. of 6 on April 29, 1890. He lived there until 1894, when he sold out to Beckey and moved to Red Deer.

He was appointed Justice of the Peace that year and at the same time, he worked as a law clerk in the office of Lawyer G. W. Green.

BRUNT, MR. AND MRS. A. G.

Mr. and Mrs. Brunt came from Nova Scotia. They had one daughter Lottie. They were considered as being gracious and well-to-do. We were unable to find out when they came to this district. They lived on the SW 31-37-28-w4th. Mr. Brunt was a trustee of the School District. They sold out in October of 1919 and returned to Nova Scotia.

BURCH, REG

Reg was the son of John Burch, one of Red Deer's first storekeepers. He homesteaded the N.E. ¼ 34-37-28-4 in the 1890's.

BUSBY, JOE AND RUBY

The Busbys bought the Indian school property in 1937 and farmed it until 1948, when they sold to Sterling and Bart Moore. Busbys did not live on this property; their home farm was on the flats at the northeast corner of Red Deer. The River Glen and Comprehensive High School, St. Thomas Aquinas School, Memorial Centre, the Armouries and housing developments occupy the area now.

BUTLER, GEORGE AND KATHLEEN

George Butler was born in Barlaston, Stoke-on-Trent, England, on May 16th, 1897. He was one of seven children; three of his sisters died before the age of two with the whooping cough.

He joined the Royal Horse Artillery in 1915 and served for three-and-a-half years. His parents had only a small holding so were unable to keep the boys at home. He and his brother Jack worked as farm labourers. In 1921 Jack Butler immigrated to Canada and was killed the same year while working in the bush at Nordegg.

On August 7, 1922, George married the former Kathleen Biddulph. Three days later he sailed alone to Canada to take up land under the Soldiers Settlement Board. His wife joined him one year later in 1923.

They worked for Mr. Schoch through harvest, then he left them in charge while he went to Europe to get married.

While he was away John Arthur Butler was born, March 14, 1924. In May Mr. and Mrs. Schoch arrived home and the Butlers moved into the old house on the Thornton place (now Bollinger's). In July they saw the worst hailstorm they had ever seen and as a result lost their jobs, but were fortunate to be asked to live out a lease on the Plummer Estate for Mr. Frank Shirleys (Mrs. Bill Wilson's parents) who was returning to the States. This gave the Butlers the opportunity to acquire land for themselves. They bought 220 acres from Walter Evans, with nothing but a straw shed for horses on it, so had to get buildings accumulated. The land location is 27-37-28 the S.E. portion west of the 4th, lying west of the river.

"On Christmas day 1924," Mrs. Butler recalls, "Mrs. Plummer invited us to dinner; it was our very first taste



George Butler and future bride Kathleen Bidolph saying good-bye to Jack Butler as he leaves England for Leslieville March, 1921.

of turkey and all the trimmings. What a feed we had, besides making life long friends!"

In March of 1925 they moved to their present location and farmed there until John took over in 1965. In 1927 Kathleen Jean Butler was born. Both John and Kathleen took their schooling at Shady Nook.

In 1940 John took a course at the technical training School in preparation for joining the Air Force. He was accepted and became an Aero-Mechanic and served until the end of World War Two.

In 1947 George and John bought the Charlie McCune farm, half a section.

Kathleen married Bill Gaetz in 1947. They had six daughters, Cheryl (Mrs. Steve Trstensky) of Calgary; Dianne (Mrs. Doug Lutz) of Shady Nook; Patricia (Mrs. Gary Chalmers) of Vancouver; Barbara (Mrs. John Franzon) of Calgary; Rae Lynne and Cathy are still living at home with their mother in Calgary.

John married the former Edna Kyme of Balmoral in 1948.

George Butler passed away at home on August the 10th, 1975. Mrs. Butler is still living on the farm.



Golden wedding anniversary August 7, 1972 George and Kathleen Butler with children Kay and John.

BUTLER, JOHN AND EDNA

John Butler was born in 1924 to Kathleen and George Butler. He grew up in the Shady Nook District. In 1947 John and his father purchased the Charlie McCune farm (28-37-28 W4th). In 1948 John married the former Edna Kyme of Balmoral district.

Edna emigrated to Canada, from England with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Kyme, in 1929. They worked as farm labourers at Bieseker, Alberta, until Mr. Kyme purchased a farm in the Balmoral District. They moved to Red Deer in the spring of 1931. Mr. Kyme rode in the back of an old truck, with the sow; and three trunks containing personal possessions brought from England. Being only four years of age at the time Edna found it all a very strange experience. John and Edna took up residence on the former Charlie McCune place after their marriage where they engaged in mixed farming.

They have four children, Kenneth born 1950, Jean in 1952, Bill in 1954, and Rose Marie in 1962.

In 1953 Kenneth contracted polio and a concert was held by the Shady Nook Community to raise funds for his care at the crippled children's hospital in Calgary. Hospitalized for three months, Ken made progress and a remarkable recovery. Kenneth was one of the last children to attend school at Shady Nook. They were then bussed into River Glen.

Ken now drives part time for Prairie Bus Lines and works at Deerhome. Jean received her Hairdressing and Barbering Certificate and is now employed in her trade in Calgary. Bill is employed as an auto body mechanic in



Back Row — Joan, Edna, Bill, John, Marg. Front Row — Jean, George, Rosemarie, Kathleen and Kenneth Butler, 1972.

Red Deer. He is married to the former Joan Kaip. Rose Marie attends River Glen school and is busy with 4H.

John and Edna have purchased a new home and have left the old McCune house to take up residence on the other side of the road.

CAMERON, E. C.

The Imposter

E. C. Cameron was missed on the list of teachers at Shady Nook by the authors of Schools of the Parkland. He was hired to teach here, following the departure of W. Hull in the summer of 1907, and was here only one month. Our school board did not check his credentials. He taught the children nothing as he sat and read most of the time. Cameron was unqualified to teach, had no permit to do so and was fired as soon as the school board realized they had made a mistake.

CHAPMAN, DAVE AND PAT

Recent arrivals to the community, the Chapmans caused a mild sensation by being the owners of the only Rolls Royce in Red Deer.

The decision to leave England and seek pastures new was by no means an easy task for the Chapmans, but as the financial climate deteriorated they decided to seek a new life for their family here. "We knew it meant leaving our relations and friends of many years, but the decision made, we now hope to lead a full and happy life with the community here in Shady Nook," writes Mrs. Chapman.

"For many generations our forebearers have been farmers in Britain and we were destined to follow in their footsteps."

Baptized Patricia L. Marbrow, Mrs. Chapman was born into a world at war in 1942. Her parents had just obtained their own farm and the years ahead meant hard work to establish themselves.

In 1953 their hopes were realized: they moved to a larger farm in Leicestershire.

"We all helped on the farm when school holidays allowed, and on weekends. I attended Coalville Grammar school and joined in many activities, including The Young Farmers Club. It was at a club meeting that I met Dave and eventually married him," Pat recounts.

David was born on Midsummers Day, 1941 to George and Anna Chapman. Until purchasing his own farm, George Chapman worked on the family farm along with his father and two brothers, combining a milk and coal delivery service with the business. He then met a young school teacher recently arrived from a small mining village in Wales. They married in 1940 and moved to their farm "Beehive" to begin building their own family and agricultural business. The years passed and along the way they were blessed with two more sons Robert and Alistair. The boys began their education at the local Primary school, helping with the chores on the farm on vacations.

At the age of eleven Dave transferred to a high school in Derbyshire, eventually graduating with qualifications in a number of subjects. He then went on an agricultural exchange course to Germany for six months to study the various farming techniques used there. After a very interesting and enjoyable period, he returned to England, where he enrolled at Burton College for a two year course in subjects appertaining to the agricultural world. He also took an active interest in The Young Farmers Club and also other community activities.

Graduating from college, Dave continued to work for his father on the farm, applying much of his knowledge to the good of the business. After their marriage, Dave worked with his father at Rosliston, Staffordshire, living in a trailer attached to the farm. A year later their first child, a son, Richard was born; following hard on his heels came another son, Andrew. Then came an exciting chapter in their lives, for they managed to buy their own farm in Netherseale. Around this time they were blessed with another son Michael.

Life was good and they were making considerable headway; with a lot of hard work we owned a pedigree Friesian milking herd. An opportunity arose to branch out into another field of agriculture, and in 1969 they bought a crop spraying business. Along with two friends, they formed a company, "Agrospray Midlands". The decision to run both the farm and the company meant a lot more work but they soldiered on, and in December of 1969 were again blessed with an addition to their family a much-hoped-for daughter, Helen Louise.

Life ran pretty smoothly until August 1970 when Dave, out spraying, met with an accident which resulted in a long stay in hospital. The prized herd of cattle had to be sold. They had a tough time from then on, until 1973 when they both took outside jobs to get them back on their feet: with their financial status restored they then began a new farming program.

In 1975 they realized they were not getting the profit margin they should for their farm. It became apparent that the British Taxation system was penalizing all farmers and small enterprises and that no longer were they allowed to make a decent profit. Thus, there could be no further expansion.

With such a bleak outlook to the future they sold their farm and with high hopes of a better life turned their footsteps towards Canada, to join the community of Shady Nook.

CLARK, RAY AND DALLIS

Dallis is the oldest daughter of Bob and Bertha Galt. She went to school at Grandview, Eastview, River Glen and Lindsay Thurber, all in Red Deer. She took her

secretarial training at Key Secretarial School in Red Deer.

Besides being employed as a full time secretary at A.S.H.-Deerhome, Dallis still finds time for her horses. She has been showing horses since she was 14 and is the proud owner of many trophies and ribbons. In her spare time she gives riding lessons and also does some judging at horse shows.

Ray is a son of Winston and Margaret Clark of Driver, Saskatchewan. He is an electrician by trade and is presently employed by Calgary Power.

Ray and Dallis were married at Red Deer on September 4, 1971. They have one son, Shawn, born in 1973.

CLAUSON, THEODORE

Theodore Clauson and his family came to Shady Nook district in 1894, and settled on the N.W.28. Many early settlers preferred land with sloughs on it for the hay they could get for winter feed. The Clauson boys all followed this rule. Jack took N.W.4; Dan S.E.32; Jake S.W.30; and Charlie S.W.28. There were three girls in the family; Mary, Kate and a Mrs. Bruce of Wetaskiwin.

An amusing incident occurred at the ford on the river at the west side of 15-37-28-4 on a very cold winter day. There was a hole cut through the ice where people could water their horses or oxen. A man named Reeves had settled N.E. 4-37-28-4 in about 1886. He came along with a team of oxen and a load of hay. When he stopped to water the oxen, he spilled some water. Just then, Clauson came along and stopped to talk. When Reeves tried to move he was frozen to the ice. They had to save the sacks which Reeves had on his feet, so he wouldn't freeze. Clauson chipped him loose.

Clauson was a short man with unusually long arms. He wore a large beard and lived in a cold house. One night with temperature about 55 below F, and a wind to make it worse, his breath froze the beard to the blankets and in the morning they had to get a kettle of hot water to thaw him loose.

Dan Clauson lived at Eckville for many years.

THE CLAYS

Bill and Harry Clay arrived in Red Deer January 10, 1926. They bought their farm N½ 13-38-28-4 from Doctors Saunders and Collison. Bill, the farmer, stayed a bachelor. Harry, a railroader, married and had three sons. The original members of the Clay family have all passed on now. George lives in Red Deer. He married Welda Brown of Winfield. They have three sons and a daughter. Tom also lives in Red Deer. He married a Winfield girl - Gladys Haines, a sister of Bud Haines, local auctioneer. Frank settled on the Clay farm after returning from overseas with a war bride. They sold out to Joe Pitt in 1953 and moved to Edmonton. They have an adopted son, David. Frank works for Northwestern Utilities.

CLIFFE, ANDREW AND ANNA

Andrew and Anna were married in Ontario in 1895. They moved west to homestead at Golden Prairie, Sask., thirty miles north of Maple Creek. The hot dry winds from the east used to burn the wheat before it had a chance to fill, so they moved to Sexsmith in 1927.

They had six children — Ross of Sylvan Lake; Milton of Spirit River; Kietha (Mrs. Harley) of Dallas, Texas;

Helen (Mrs. Arnold) of Kelowna, B.C.; Elsie (Mrs. Hewel) of Sious Lookout, Ontario; and Ruth (Mrs. Balderson) of Vancouver.

These elderly people did not have the opportunity to live here very long. They came with their son, Ross, in October, 1944 and lived in a little cottage on the Porter farm. Andrew and Anna visited in Ontario that winter and returned in the spring. Andrew was driving a team of horses; he was riding the running gear. Something frightened them and they ran away. Andrew died of his injuries in the summer of 1945. Anna went to live with her daughter in Edmonton and passed away in 1962.

CLIFFE, ROSS AND ANNIE

Ross, the eldest son of Andrew and Anna Cliffe was born in "Front of Leeds and Landsdown County" Ontario on February 8, 1897 and moved with his parents to the homestead at Golden Prairie, Saskatchewan in 1910. He moved to Sexsmith, Alberta in 1927. In 1940 he married Mrs. Annie Barr, a daughter of pioneer parents Walter and Lena Lawrence, who homesteaded by the juncture of the Qu'Appelle and Assiniboine valleys at Welwyn, Saskatchewan, in 1910.

Annie had four children from her first marriage. Dave, who manages Canadian Freightways at Grande Prairie, has three daughters. Jim, a bachelor, works on steel construction wherever the job takes him. Jean, (Mrs. Villette) of Edmonton has worked for an oil well supply company for many years and has recently been promoted to the position of manager. Villetes have two girls. Mary Anne is now Mrs. Dave Callwell of Edmonton, and they also have two girls.

Cliffes have three children. Andrew, born July 3, 1946 is a carpenter living at Sylvan Lake. Margaret is Mrs. Harry Jensen of Shady Nook. Heather, now Mrs. Cumpstone, works at the Glenrose Hospital in Edmonton. She has two daughters.

Ross was a veteran of World War I and enlisted again in 1940. He received a discharge in 1942 and on October 28, 1944 arrived with his family in Shady Nook. They bought the Porter farm S.W. 9-38-28-W4 and farmed here until 1956, when they moved to Red Deer. Ross worked the next eight years at the Penhold Air Base, while Annie cooked at A.S.H. They sold the farm in 1962. They now live in Sylvan Lake. Ross is retired and Annie is employed by Home Services in Red Deer.

CLOUTIER, JOSEPH AND LOIS

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Cloutier and family came to the Shady Nook district in October, 1974. They live on an acreage on the N.W. 3-38-28-4. They have three children.

Joseph was born into a family of twelve in Tangent, Alberta and went to school there. He was then employed with Western Geophysical Co. of Canada for a number of years before acquiring his own trucking business (French Transport) in Red Deer.

Joe's wife, Lois (nee Thody) is from Mather, Manitoba where she was born and educated. She was employed as a bookkeeper at the Manitoba Co-op Creamery in Elkhorn where she and Joe met. They were married in December of 1952 and during the first seven years of their marriage, moved some thirty-seven times around the prairies with Western before moving to Red Deer in 1959.

Their oldest son, Ross, was born in January, 1956. The second son, Darrin arrived in August of 1962 and their daughter, Lori, in September, 1963.

COMIS, JOHN PAUL AND ANNA

John Paul Comis, an Italian mosaic and terrazzo artisan and concrete engineer, arrived in Red Deer on November 4, 1912, with his brother-in-law Fred Naughtman who had a homestead at Hespero (Pitcox). His wife Anna and three sons, Otto, Bruno and Yvo joined him on February 14, 1914 from Bohemia.

John Comis established his trade in Red Deer and in 1919 he purchased land on Burnt Lake Road from a Mr. Darlo who had bought the farm from the original homesteader. Location S.E. 24-38-28-4. John Comis suffered an industrial accident in 1922 but resumed his trade in 1924 until retirement. Mrs. Comis died in 1953 and Mr. Comis died in 1956.

After Otto served overseas in the medical corps, he and his wife Hylda (nee Hart) moved to B.C. Their family consisted of four sons and 2 daughters, Donald, Ervin, Eugene and infant son (deceased), Joyce and Darleen (deceased). Both Otto and Hylda were killed in an automobile accident in October of 1976.

Bruno and his wife Catherine (nee Willing), left Red Deer in 1968, moving to Calgary. Bruno, during the war, was stationed at A 20 army base Red Deer with the Engineers, and later carried on with the construction trade. Bruno and Catherine had two sons — Paige and Brian and two daughters — Pat and Anita.

Yvo and his wife Irene (nee Hilsabeck) moved to Calgary after Yvo finished serving overseas with the Provost Corps. They had three sons — Cliff, Ron and Jack.

George Belich purchased the farm from the Comis Estate in 1959.

John and Anna Comis were a friendly, jolly couple who always had time to stop and pass the time of day with a neighbor or visitor. Travelers on the Burnt Lake road could often see them out in the yard, working in the garden or taking care of the fine herd of Ayrshire cattle.

"Ma" Comis was noted as a fine cook. One can remember at threshing time sampling her delicious Bohemian recipes. Ma had an arthritic condition which finally caused her to be confined to her bed. "Pa" nursed her at home for several years before her passing.

Pa Comis could give a real lesson in participation. He used to walk to town two or three times a week to get the mail. If he was offered a ride he would say, "No thanks, I am getting my exercise". Perhaps this is the secret to longevity.

The old river bank which bisects the Comis quarter has several flowing springs which made bog holes for cattle and horses to get stuck in. Whenever this happened eight or ten people would gather and pull the animal out by hand as it was impossible to get close enough with any kind of power. One of the worst of these bog holes is now covered by the four-lane highway.

Pa used to cut hay on the area now occupied by Les' Trailer Park. On one occasion young grandson Jack insisted on helping and was put to work raking the hay with a single horse and a sulky rake. All went well until the rake hit a hummock and Jack fell off the seat, landing lengthwise in front of the rake. The horse took off for

parts unknown, urged on by frightened screams, until the rake picked up enough drag to trip itself, leaving the boy rolled up in a coil of hay like a wiener in a bun none the worse except for a badly damaged dignity. The frightened pony finally kicked free of the rake and has not been seen since.

Pa Comis was an expert in all kinds of concrete work. Many examples of his art can be seen in Red Deer, among them the Bank of Montreal building with its terraza floor. Another example is the old Rogers house N.W. of town near the highway which Pa built of stone blocks. This now seems to be a lost art.

COTTER, FRED AND MARY

Fred Cotter bought the Jake Clauson homestead S.W. 30-37-28-W4. He married Mary Clauson. They had no children. Cotter's sold out to Bickley's about 1928.

CUPPLES, WES AND GWEN

In July, 1969, Wes and Gwen Cupples and family moved to the Shady Nook district. They purchased twenty acres of land from Gavin Clark at S.W. 13-38-28-4, which is located directly across the Red Deer River from Fort Normandeau. Prior to this time the Cupples had lived in the Mitchener Hill area of Red Deer.

They have four children: Calvin, 19, is taking a two-year course at SAIT. Kim, 17, is completing her Senior High School at Lindsay Thurber. Lorill, 13, and Garrett, 11, are attending River Glen School.

Wes owns and operates General Hot Oil, an oilfield servicing company. Gwen works at the Hudson's Bay Store in Red Deer.

COWAN, A. G.

Homesteaded the N.W. of 7 sometime in 1893.

DAVIS, AL AND MARGARET

The Davises came from Taber, Alberta in March of 1936 and rented the S.W. of 4, for three years. They were irrigation farmers at Taber and farmed near the end of the ditch; often when they most needed water there was none available. When it was available, usually late in the day or at night, they would not be able to get it fast enough to produce a good crop. They finally got fed up with the large expense and not as much income as they should have had and decided to try the black sods of Central Alberta.

The winter of 1935 was a cold one with deep snow. They brought a few cattle and horses with them and bought hay and greenfeed from Cliff Braithwaite. The roads and fields were so bad it required four horses to pull a grain tank full of bundles. About all a hay rack was good for that year was to upset — and they were very good at that.

Al farmed with a 1925 cross-mounted twin cylinder tractor. Whenever it went along the field by the school, it proved to be much more interesting than the classes were and all the boys had to stop work to watch it go by.

There were three girls and one boy in the family; Marie, Margaret, Vivian and Wayne.

In the spring of 1939 Davis bought the Elijah Pye farm, east of Penhold, and moved away from Shady Nook.

DAWSON JIM AND MARY (Sergeant J. J. Dawson of the Royal North West Mounted Police)

Jim was born in Toronto on March 3, 1857. He was left an orphan at a very early age. He spoke often and kindly about the Scottish Lady who mothered him. When Jim applied to join the Royal North West Mounted Police, they told him he was too small. Applicants were supposed to be 5 ft. 10 in. tall and weigh 170 lbs, but Jim was not an average man: he was 5 ft. 8½ in. tall and weighed 165 lbs. He said, "I don't look very big but I'll show you what I can do and you can be the judge". He was a boxer of note, a fast runner and a weight lifter supreme. He was very athletic, with muscles made of steel. The recruiting officers agreed that any man who could do what he could do was big enough to be a Mountie no matter what his size.

In the spring of '82, with two hundred recruits he en-trained at Sarnia, Ontario for the long and hardship-laden trip to the West. Their route was principally through the U.S.A. by boat and rail and the last 150 miles on foot, guided by I. G. Baker, with Baker's bull teams hauling supplies. Not everybody reached his destination. On May 24th a blizzard with very heavy snow was encountered. Some succumbed to exposure and hardships of the journey, others, overcome by the intense loneliness of the country, deserted on the American side of the boundary.

Trekking mile after mile, day after day without seeing a living creature, except a few buffalo and scattered bands of hostile Indians, was a severe test of character. By the time they arrived within sight of Fort Walsh the original 200 men had dwindled to 150.

Jim remained at Fort Walsh. During his stay there treaty money was paid to 5000 Indians. Pow-wows and tribal dances were held. The thirst dance was also held, where young men qualified as braves. A skewer of wood was thrust through the chest muscles and thongs were tied to a centre pole. The young men danced and pulled straining their weight on the thongs until the wood pulled through the flesh. They were braves indeed!

Dawson was on the whiskey squad, detailed to check the whiskey smuggling. He spent a lot of time in the company of Jerry Potts, a renowned scout who never got lost. Potts was a marvel at finding his way. He was also very good at predicting the weather. Jerry had an unquenchable thirst and any liquor had to be kept hidden. All the good scouts among the Mounties had been trained by Potts and Dawson learned his lessons well.

Those were the stirring days of the early west. As the settlers spread west to occupy the Indian's land, war threatened to flair across the plains.

Early in 1885, Jim was posted to Regina. He learned to speak the Cree language fluently and later that winter was one of a group of 49 mounties ordered on to the Battlefords. This 185 mile march was to go down in history as the most difficult ever undertaken by the force. They were caught in a blizzard, very cold temperatures and no visibility, out on the tractless Prairie covered deep with snow. After the experience of two years before, it was feared for a time that all would be lost. They stopped in a treeless draw and took what shelter and windbreak they could from the horses. They stayed awake throughout the storm, stamping their feet



Jim and Mary Dawson, 1936.

and swinging their arms to keep warm. When the worst was over they all made it safely to Battleford.

There was to be no rest for these weary men. The Riel Rebellion was under way and immediately preparation had to be made to meet on the fields of battle with the brave and valiant warriors of the Cree and the Assiniboine.

Jim was often assigned to the duty of scouting, usually alone. One day two of his boyhood friends, who had joined the Force in Toronto with Jim, Constables Cowan and Loasby, were out scouting together when they were ambushed. Cowan was killed. Loasby was wounded. Loasby's horse had been shot nine times and Loasby left for dead. He recovered consciousness and somehow made it back to the fort.

The police were outnumbered by the Indians by a wide margin and counted heavily on the use of a cannon. While preparing for the battle of Duck Lake, the Mounties were trying to get a little cannon to the top of a ridge. There was not enough room between the trees for the men to carry or pull the cannon, so Dawson told them he thought if they could lift it to his shoulders he might be able to carry it alone. He succeeded and considered it to be the greatest feat of strength he had ever performed.

He also took part in the battles of Frenchman's Butte and Cutknife.

After the battles were over, Jim, with a small troupe of six men, was sent out to arrest the eight Indians who were responsible for the Frog Lake Massacre and the Riel Rebellion. On the way back the Indians asked if they could see the gun that spoke thunder. Chief Poundmaker pointed to the cannon and said, "Much, much noise, me much scared". Dawson was put in charge of guarding the prisoners, Poundmaker, Wandering Spirit, Calling Bull and the others. He had been present at the surrendering of Poundmaker of the Plains Cree to General Middleton on May 26, 1885, and present too at the hanging later on. When the prisoners were asked if they had any last requests only "Little Stoney" of the Assiniboine had one.

He asked to be allowed to keep his moccasins on, as the stands of the happy hunting ground were very hot.

Southern Saskatchewan was very dry in the summer of 1885. The Mounties reported that in mid-June the new grass was dry and brown. As the gumbo soils around Regina dried, large cracks opened up. It was possible to see down into them for a long way and they were wide enough for the horses' feet to go into.

In January of 1888, Dawson was posted to Fort Normandeau, and later that year he was transferred to Fort Saskatchewan where he remained for 5 years. While there, he had a severe attack of mountain fever. Late in 1893 or early in 1894 Dawson was again posted to Fort Normandeau. In 1895, he married Emily Sylvester of Red Deer. She died 6 months later with a ruptured appendix.

Part of the duty of the early police was to check on the various groups of Indians to see how they were getting along. The Indians liked the little Mountie who spoke Cree so well. Often he was invited in for a meal. In hard times with food scarce he sat down to dinners of gopher or muskrat stew; he said it tasted good when you were hungry.

After 15 years of faithful service Dawson took his discharge and a pension. He was proud of the Mounted Police and proud also of the legends he had helped to create — legends that made the Royal North West Mounted Police a force of world renown. During the years that Dawson was in his prime, he was recognized as the strongest man in western Canada. He was one of only two men able to shoulder and walk away with a length of railway steel. Often when out with a group on Sundays he would make bets of \$5 that he could do it and used to chuckle at what easy money he had made.

He was a very kind and gentle man. He often escorted dangerous criminals, and would check to make sure they were disarmed; but that was it: no hand cuffs were ever put on and no one tried to escape. They were treated with sympathy and respect. Many police in the early days had breakdowns due to the hard and rigorous life. They were taken to Regina for treatment and rest. Invariably Jim Dawson had the job of escorting them, too.

In 1897 Dawson was going to enlist for another five years. When he found out he was to be sent to police the Gold Rush in the Yukon, he changed his mind. Jim Dawson and Mr. Sylvester started a restaurant in Red Deer and ran it for a year or two. After that he went to work in a lumber camp in British Columbia. There a careless logger caused a tree to fall on him. His right ear was severed completely and he was hurt very badly. He returned to Red Deer where he lived for a while with professor Charles Wright on the SW of 34. In 1901 he filed for a homestead at SW 22-37-28 and in August of 1902 he married Mary Mouncey Braithwaite. They moved to the Dawson homestead and started building log buildings. It was the second time in ten years that Mary had started a new life on a raw homestead. They were both well experienced in pioneer living and it was an easier life than either one had had before. They lived on the farm until 1921, then moved into north Red River, where they kept a small flock of chickens and grew a very fine garden. They had many visitors throughout the summers as it was one of the show places of Red Deer.

In 1925 at the Jubilee in Calgary and again in 1935, 50th anniversary of the Riel Rebellion, Mr. Dawson was given a medal to commemorate his service in the Royal North West Mounted Police.

Jim passed away in 1937 at the age of 80. Mary passed away in 1952, over 96 years old at that time. She had seen the old homestead turn into a prosperous mechanized farm and was pleased to have played a part in the development of this area.

SENTINEL — from Clancy Of The Mounted Police

In the little Crimson Manual it's written plain and clear
That who would wear the scarlet coat shall say good-bye
to fear;

Shall be a guardian of the right, a sleuth-hound of the
trail —

In the little Crimson Manual there's no such word as
"fail" —

Shall follow on though heavens fall, or hell's top-turrets
freeze,

Half round the world, if need there be, on bleeding hands
and knees.

It's duty, duty, first and last, the Crimson Manual saith;
The Scarlet Rider makes reply: "It's duty — to the
death."

And so they sweep the solitudes, free men from all the
earth;

And so they sentinel the woods, the wilds that know their
worth;

And so they scour the startled plains and mock at hurt
and pain,

And read their Crimson Manual, and find their duty
plain.

Knights of the lists of unrenown, born of the frontier's
need,

Disdainful of the spoken word, exultant in the deed;

Unconscious heroes of the waste, proud players of the
game,

Props of the power behind the throne, upholders of the
name:

For thus the Great White Chief hath said, "In all my
lands be peace,"

And to maintain his word he gave his West the Scarlet
Police.

DEPALME, JEAN AND MARGUERITE

The Depalmes came to the Shady Nook district in
October 1925 taking over the N.W. 28-37-28 W4th. They
bought the quarter from a bachelor by the name of
Fitzgerald. In 1928 they bought the S.W. quarter of 28
which was owned by Sandy Gehrke. The land at that time
cost \$20 per acre; 55 acres were under cultivation. They
struggled through the dirty thirties and eventually retired
about 1942 when the farm was taken over by their son



*Marguerite, Frank, Anne Marie and Jean DePalme in front of the
old log house.*

Frank. They also had one daughter, now Mrs. Anne
Marie Trudel. Jean and Marguerite lived the full course
of their lives on the farm. Marguerite Depalme died in
January 1951 at the age of 68. Jean Depalme died April
1971 at 88 years of age.

DEPALME, FRANK AND JEANNE

Frank Depalme married Jeanne Roy and they raised
a family of two boys and two girls. Their eldest son
Maurice married Margaret Anne Gammon and they live
in Calgary. Pauline, who has a degree in psychiatric nurs-
ing, married John Leeder and they also live in Calgary.
Denise married Leo Touchette and is teaching school in
Red Deer. Their youngest son Raymond has taken over
the farm and Frank and Jeanne are retired and living in
Red Deer.

In the 45 years of his working life, Frank Depalme
has seen a great many changes in the Shady Nook dis-
trict. Many people have passed by or away. Witness the
improvements of farm lands, buildings and roads, and
the big changes in farming methods and equipment. The
district is noted for its rich, productive land and
favourable weather conditions with generally sufficient
rain and little spring frost.

In the years gone by the district residents could be
described as progressive and enthusiastic citizens. The
younger people were also sports-minded and enterprising
in that regard. In the 30's and 40's there were some very
worthwhile ball and hockey teams. The district of Shady
Nook was one of the first to build an outdoor skating
rink, in 1934. At about the same time there was a high
school in operation.



Anne Marie and Frank DePalme breaking land, 1930.

DEPALME, RAYMOND AND DOREEN

Ray Depalme was born in 1946, second son of Frank
and Jeanne Depalme. He attended St. Joseph's Convent
and St. Thomas Aquinas School in Red Deer. His high
school was taken at St. Anthony's college in Edmonton.
After graduation, Ray took a two-year course in
agriculture at Olds Agriculture Vocational College,
graduating in 1966. He subsequently attended Red Deer
College in 1967 and 1968.

Ray played hockey and fastball in Innisfail in 1967
and 1970.

Ray met his wife, the former Doreen Kjinserdahl of
Nanton, in 1968 working at Welsh's Saddlery. They were
married July 19, 1969 at Claresholm. They have two



Doreen, Raymond, Adele and Travis DePalme.

children; Travis, born August 20, 1971 and Adele, born August 16, 1973.

Ray is past president of the Shady Nook Community Club. He farmed in partnership with his father until 1972, then bought the farm. He is involved in breeding exotic cattle, namely Salers. At present, Ray is president of the Alberta Salers Association.

They also have Arabian horses and are active in competitive trail riding.

DIDIER, RONALD AND LILLY

Ron and Lil (nee Thachuk) were both raised and educated in Edmonton, Alberta. Starting out as a young couple in Edmonton, Ron had an office job which later led to a two-year transfer to Grande Prairie, Alberta and then back to Edmonton until one day they decided to try farming as a way of life. This led to another move, this time to Waugh, Alberta, where they had a large cow-calf operation. When they decided to move in the fall of 1972, they chose Red Deer because they had been down to a couple of cattle sales and found the people friendly and the area beautiful.

They lived in Red Deer for six months and then bought the farm of George Braithwaite, N.W. 22-37-28-4, where they now have less cattle and less farm work. As a result, Ron also works full time as the manager of the Canada Farm Labor Pool in Red Deer.

There are three Didier children; Darci fourteen, Donald thirteen and Holly twelve. They are just as happy as their parents with the decision to locate in this area, as both the country and the people are just as wonderful as they seemed, many years ago at a cattle sale in Red Deer.

DIMOND, KATHERINE

Katherine was a well-to-do young lady who was a sister of Edith Porter. She came with the Porters from England in 1928 or 1929. She remained in Canada only a few months before returning home to England. While here, she bought the N.W. of 4 and it is still known locally as the Dimond quarter.

DIXON

Dixon homesteaded the S.E. 10-38-28-4 in 1890. Not being able to cope with the rigors of pioneer life, his health broke. Orville Gehrke's home is on this land.

DOEG, BOB

Bob was a veteran of the First World War. He adjusted to civilian life by living in his brother's little house with other returned men. Bob owned a quarter on the east end of Burnt Lake. He married Bertha Stewart, a daughter of Billy Stewart of Poplar Ridge. Bertha's dad was getting on in years and she stayed to look after him. Bob and Billy couldn't live under the same roof, so Bob lived alone. After his father-in-law's death the Doigs got together and spent their later years on Bertha's farm.

DOEG, W. (SCOTTY)

A returned man who owned the S.W. of 14 for a few years. He was a carpenter by trade and usually had the farm rented out.

DWYER

We have no information on this man. We only know he lived on the Saunders and Collison farm N.½ 13-38-28-W4.

He sold out in the spring of 1926, because the Clays bought the farm in January of that year.

EAST

Easts first lived on a farm in the south end of the Poplar Ridge District. Early school records show the children attended Shady Nook for three years. They rented the Logan farm for a while. There were three girls; Vera, Dorothy and Katie, also two boys, John and Tom.

EVANS, HENRY AND HENRIETTA

Henry and Henrietta Evans came from Red Wood Minnesota in the spring of 1899. Henry was 71 years old. Henrietta, his third wife, was a sister of one of his former wives. Henry's children from the previous marriages were established on their own and did not come with them. The last family consisted of three sons and three daughters. Bill, Walter, Harry, Emma (Mrs. Charles McDougal of Penhold), Alma (Mrs. Watson of Lousana), and Olive (Mrs. Bill Arb of Red Deer).

Henry and his wife bought the east ½ of 22-37-28. This land is split by the Red Deer river. The house was on the N.E.¼ east of the river.

The first summer they were here, they built a large log barn with a lumber and shingle roof, fenced all their land with wire, and undertook to break 100 acres. Evans had the experience of pioneering in the U.S.A. Like some others who came to our area from there, they had considerable resources and did not have as much difficulty as those who came with only the clothes they wore.

At that early date they used a brush cutter. It was one with the cutting blade on one side of a large beam. The beam had a large metal fin on it. A box of stones forced

the fin into the ground so it would take the side thrust. They used nine horses in three hitches of 3, to pull it. The bush had to be piled out of the way each round. It was a fast way to handle light poplar brush. It was also one of the hardest jobs the horses were ever called on to do.

Bill homesteaded land at Erskine. Walter located a homestead at Lousana. Henry Evans passed away in 1904 and some time later the boys sold their homesteads to return to the home farm. Walter bought 371 acres on Sec. 27 west of the river and the railway. Bill bought two quarters near the home place. Later when Walter married Eva Streach, the boys split the home farm in two. The new farmstead was on the south ¼, east of the river.

The Dawson and Braithwaite farms lay on the west bank of the river. Their buildings were on the S.W. of 22. This farm was also split by the river so everybody had land on both sides. It was a fortunate thing that there was a good ford between these farms. It was a short road to town for Braithwaites, and Evanses used it for a road to and from their fields. If the river was too high to ford they went around by the Penhold bridge. It was an interesting sight to see their Old Rumely Oil Pull with the threshing machine and all the bundle racks strung out along the ford.

Horses that are used to ford the river grow fond of the water and will cross at any time. Mares with young colts will take them into deep water. They stay on the downstream side of them and they cross with no more difficulty than the other horses. On one occasion in the early spring, the river was high and the ice was going out. There were patches of open water and ice cakes and a string of horses strayed across the stream. No cowboy would saddle up to bring them back that time!

The livestock watered out of the river for many years and since they were so willing to cross a method was devised so they did not cause damage or too much inconvenience. A little pasture field was made at the top of the bank. The roads to and from the ford went through the pasture, on to the corrals and farmsteads. The strays were well confined, easily turned or held back. Collecting the wayward animals was an occasion for a visit, a cup of tea and a chance to find out how friends were doing.

The Braithwaite and Evans families were much more involved with each other than if the river had not been there. One time Bill Evans and Cliff Braithwaite were going to take a couple of young ladies to a dance at Evarts, and in order to make a good impression wished to take one of Bill's fancy buggies. The river was too high for fording so they took the buggy to the river, put it on top of a little row boat and were just ready to push out into the turbulent stream when Mrs. Evans came to the top of the bank. She was aghast at what she saw, and quickly put a stop to it. Later that day the boys took extra saddle horses along and they all went to the dance anyway.

Harry Evans was just recovering from the measles. He joined a group of boys going swimming, caught a chill, had a relapse of fever and died a few days later with a very high temperature. That was in 1912. Henrietta passed away in 1914.

Bill was married to Velma Morton of Carstairs in 1940. He died in a haying accident in 1943. There were no children.

Walter sold out in 1944, lived in B.C. for a couple of years, then bought a quarter east of Red Deer.

In 1955, Walter and Eva retired and bought a house in north Red Deer. Eva passed away in 1966. Walter, now 81 years of age, lives in Red Deer with his son, Donald and is the last surviving member of a very fine, successful and energetic family.

FARNELL, WM. SEWARD AND MARGARET ELLENOR

Seward was born at Sheet Harbor, Nova Scotia in 1872 and as a young man moved to New Richmond, Bonaventure County, Quebec to work as a sawyer in a lumber mill. He first came west in 1899 to work at the Chamainus Mill on the west coast. He did not remain in the west very long. Perhaps unable to forget the girl he left behind, he returned east and in 1902 married Margaret Fallow. In 1909 Seward moved west to Red Deer and was followed by his family the following year. Like several other mill workers and log drivers from the hardwood forests of Ontario and Quebec, Farnell found employment with the Great West Lumber Co. In 1913 the Farnell's moved to the Thornton farm in Shady Nook and the next year purchased a C.P.R. quarter — the SW 9 and built the original buildings there.

They spent five years in our district, moving back to Red Deer in 1918. They did not make the main part of their living from farming but developed a firewood business, selling wood to their many customers in Red Deer. He ran a lumber camp at Rocky Mountain House for several years, then farmed for awhile before retiring to north Red Deer. His hobby was gardening. He was in ill health for several months before passing away at 78 years of age on February 14, 1950. His wife, Margaret, was a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Fallow who moved west in 1910. Fallow built the large brick house which stands on the brow of the hill NW of the North Red Deer School. Margaret was a sister of Mrs. Miles Willett and Mrs. Duncan Stewart. Farnell's have seven children, some of them born while Farnell's lived in Shady Nook. There were two daughters, Janet who remained single and was a missionary in Africa and Mamie, Mrs. Carl Bell of North Red Deer. The sons were Everett, William, Reginald, Frank and John. The boys live at various places in B.C. except for Everett who farms at Leslieville



L-R — Jennie Farnell, Maggie and Seward Farnell, Mattie (Fallow) McMullen and Mamie (Farnell) Bell, 1946.

and Reginald living in Ottawa. Margaret passed away on February 6, 1953.

FARREN, ED

Ed Farren homesteaded N.W. 34-37-28-4. The frame shack he built there stood until 1968 or 69, at which time it was the only old building in this area which was built with square nails.

FAUDRY, NORMAN

Norman Faudry was homesteader of N.W. ¼ 20-37-28-. He was married to a Westlin girl and lived here until 1913. They sold their farm for \$3,500. In 1930 it sold again for \$1,400; in 1944 for \$6,000 and now in 1976 would probably bring \$65-70,000.



Norman Faudry and Jack Clausen, 1913.

FITZGERALD, O.

O. Fitzgerald was the first owner of the N.W. of 28-37-28-W.4. We do not know if he was a brother to Charles Fitzgerald or if he was Charles' father. O. Fitzgerald had an auction sale at this farm on Nov. 12, 1912. Charles owned the farm after 1912.

FITZGERALD, CHARLES

Charles was the bachelor son of Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Fitzgerald. He took over the home farm, NW ¼ 28-37-

28-W4 when his dad retired in 1912. He later bought the SW of 28 from Sandy Gehrke in 1918. Charles also owned the NE of 34.

In 1926 he sold the home farm to Jean Depalme and the other quarter, which had been rented to Murdy McDonald since 1919, was sold to Murdy in the spring of 1926.

FLUH, OTTO

Otto was a veteran of the first great war. He immigrated to Canada from Germany. We first recall him being in Shady Nook in 1929 when he came to work for Mr. Schoch. He bought the S.E. 34-37-28-W4. Many people will remember Otto as a very enthusiastic hockey fan and although he never skated, he used to referee most of the hockey games in the 1930's. In those days the team could not afford a whistle for the referee. Otto walked back and forth, carrying the school bell and would ring it to stop the play. He got along very well as a referee as he was always impartial and was also much too big and strong to argue with. He sold his quarter in the spring of 1940 and moved to an acreage just north of Red Deer. He raised pigs for several years before he went to work at the Red Deer Condensary. Otto remained a bachelor all his life. He was killed in 1963 when struck by a car while walking across Gaetz Avenue one morning on his way to work.

FORRESTER FAMILY

Andy and Clara Forrester, with Andy's bachelor brother Jack, came to Red Deer from Ontario in 1905. Andy and Clara lived in Red Deer. Jack and a partner of his bought the S.E. of 23 and the S.W. of 24 T38-R28-W4. They raised purebred clydes and showed them over a wide area at the fairs and horse shows. Andy bought the farm from his brother and partner shortly after the end of World War I. He did not keep up the registration of the horses.

During March of 1924 when the John Johanson family of Burnt Lake found it imperative to get Mrs. Johanson to the hospital, Andy came to their rescue by hitching four big strong clydes to the Johanson sleigh for the final dash to the hospital. This was the third four horse team used that bitterly cold and drifting day. The roads were drifted beyond use so the entire trip was made by breaking trail across the fields. They were there in time and it was a girl "Doris".

Andy and Clara had one son Bob, and two daughters Marjorie and Barbara. Bob was killed in action during the second world war. Marjorie works in a law office in Edmonton and is not married. Barbara lived in Edmonton for several years and now lives in California. She is married and has three children.

Andy and Clara rented their farm for two years to the Tait family in 1942 and moved to Edmonton. Andy worked for the government for several years.

Mr. and Mrs. Forrester both passed away in 1975; their deaths occurred about two weeks apart. Andy was 91.

After Jack sold out to this brother he lived in a little shack located on the property now occupied by Eatons parking lot. He gave up possession of this property to Eatons in 1939. He lived with his brother until failing health and ability caused his hospitalization. He passed away at 80 years of age.

FRESCHETTE, FRED AND ALICE

Fred is the only son of Fred and Alice Freschette. They were pioneers of Plato, Saskatchewan. He was born August 5, 1929. Fred moved to Innisfail in 1946 and has been in business in or near our area ever since. Being in business is pretty easy for Fred. He has his papers as a first class journeyman welder, pressure welder, boiler maker, heavy duty diesel mechanic and steam engineer, and is a qualified machinist.

He was married at Red Deer to Alice Lechelt of the Craig district in December, 1952. Alice, born December 8, 1934 is a daughter of Adolph and May Lechelt. After finishing school she worked in a store at New Sarepta until she married Fred.

The Freschettes keep very busy. They run a construction business, a welding shop and a pressure valve fitting service. Their other activities include collecting original pictures, documents, antiques, and rebuilding old steam engines (eight so far). He was an advisor to the provincial government when they were rebuilding the steam engine that powered the Nasco (a stern-wheeler that was on Lesser Slave Lake long ago) for the provincial museum. They also have a band, Fred and Fred Jr., play in the band.

The Freschettes have one daughter and one son. Fred was born on December 16, 1955 and works in the construction business in partnership with his father. Jeanette was born on December 12, 1953 and has recently earned her teaching certificate.



Fred Freschette Sr. seated. Fred Jr., Mrs. Freschette and Jeanette.

GALT, BOB AND BERTHA

Bob was born in 1916 and raised at Fort Macleod, Alberta. After completing his formal education he joined the army and served throughout the war in the famous Calgary Highlander Regiment where he met several local men.

Bertha, the only daughter of Byron and Julia Raymer, was born in 1916. She went to school at Shady Nook and for a couple of years at Red Deer High. She spent practically all her youthful years working on her

parents' farm and during the war years did the work of a man. In 1945 she opened a seamstress shop in Calgary in partnership with Lorene Soderquist. In 1947 Bob and Bertha were married. Bob worked in the big mine at Kimberley, B.C.

The Galts moved to the Raymer farm for four years following the death of Julia Raymer. They lived in Red Deer for a few years. Bob started the Melody School of Music and taught music for 20 years. They moved back to the farm after Byron's death and farmed and raised cattle and chickens. Then in 1961 Bertha started a guest farm and operated it for 13 years. She catered to guests from all the western provinces, Ontario, France and some from South America. She now owns Melody Meadows, a mobile home park on the S.E. of 9. Bob works in Red Deer. The Galt's have three children, Dallis born in 1948, now Mrs. Ray Clark, Larry born in 1951 and Jill in 1953. They all worked as supervisors during their summers at home on the guest farm.

Jill has always been a talented young miss. She began music and dancing lessons at four years of age. She competed in music and dancing competitions and many times took top honours. She travelled with the "Stratification", a group of entertainers from Calgary, for two years. She married Don Hardy of Victoria, B.C. in December, 1974. Don was also with the "Stratification". They live in Victoria and make their living as professional entertainers.

GALT, LARRY AND HELENE

Larry, son of Bob and Bertha Galt was an avid football and hockey player. He also excelled in swimming and qualified as a lifeguard at age 12.

After finishing school he worked at Yellowknife for four years. He returned to Red Deer in 1975, and married Helene Hardy of Comox, B.C. in December of that year. Helene is a sister of Jill's husband, Don Hardy.

Larry and Helene purchased a mobile home and live at Galt's Melody Farm. Larry is a youth supervisor at the Youth Assessment Centre in Red Deer.

GARVY

Mr. Garvy was a brother-in-law of Charles Fitzgerald. Mr. and Mrs. Garvy lived with the Fitzgeralds on the S.W. 28-37-28-W.4. We don't know his first name because he was always called Garvy. They moved to the North half of 13 in 1924. There were no children in this family.

GEBBINK, BEN AND ANNIE

Ben and Annie Gebbink were married in the little church at Twin Butte near Waterton Lakes in November of 1953. They met in Holland, where they were born. After his arrival in Canada, Ben worked at the farm of Frank Bonerts.

In August of 1954, their daughter Lucy was born. The following spring they moved to Vauxhall. The prairie was very hot in the summer, and with the irrigation of the crops they had mosquitos galore.

Their first son, Martin, was born in the Tabor hospital in August of 1955. They lived two years there and in April of 1957, moved north to Red Deer. "We liked the trees and the green grass, and the summers were so much cooler here than in Southern Alberta," they said.

Their second son Felix was born November 1957; at that time they were living on the farm of H. Sharman southeast of Red Deer. The weather that fall was very mild.

The following spring they bought an acreage on the Burnt Lake Trail, and this is where they still live. At that time their close neighbours were Mr. and Mrs. Bill McKinnon and Mr. and Mrs. George Wright.

In July of 1959 their third son Donny was born and two years later in 1961 their second daughter Sylvia. During this time Ben started working on Construction.

The winter of 1964-65 was very cold and very long. Many animals froze to death as the temperatures went far below zero and the winds blew day after day.

Their youngest child and third daughter, Theresa, was born in April of 1966.

All the children have attended Red Deer schools.

GEHRKE, AUGUST AND ANNIE

August and Annie Gehrke and eight of their nine children arrived in Red Deer in March 1901, from their farm near Pembroke, Ontario. Thomas, their oldest, had gone north of Regina to homestead there. The family came West by C.P.R. with a car load of settlers' effects, including household goods, farm machinery, eight cows and two horses. Mr. and Mrs. Jamieson, who lived in a small log house with their six children near where the Alberta School Hospital now stands, shared their home with the Gehrke family for a month until Mr. Gehrke rented a farm in the Waskasoo District, known as Owens farm.

When the family arrived in Red Deer there was between 2 to 3 feet of snow. Needless to say when spring arrived every slough and pothole was full of water, but not drinking water. This was hauled from the farm of Jim Smith, a neighbor. The first year they lost both their horses and their colts with swamp fever.

In 1903 Mr. Gehrke homesteaded S.E. 4-38-28-4, and during the winter the men folk hauled a lot of their possessions across the river and stored them in a small shack on the homestead, which was later destroyed by fire.

When spring came the family moved to the homestead and lived in two small granaries until the main part of the house was built. The kitchen was added a couple of years later. During the summer of 1904, Bella, the eldest daughter, was married to John McLeod of Innisfail.

It was a busy time for the settlers of the district, with the building of their homes and getting a school started; but with willing hands and cooperation of all, the jobs were soon accomplished.

Several teachers boarded at the Gehrke home as it was just a half mile to the school. At first the attendance was small but it increased as new settlers arrived. Mr. Gehrke served on the first school board.

The Gehrke farm soon had a herd of milk cows which was the main source of income until the land was cleared and cultivated.

Mrs. Gehrke made first grade butter for which they had ready sale to steady customers in Red Deer.

Mr. Gehrke was a familiar figure in his democrat in summer and twin-sleighs in winter drawn by a nice team of drivers, on the roads to town, delivering their farm



August and Anne Gehrke.

products of butter and eggs to their customers and often a carcass of beef or pork to Mr. Teasdale the butcher.

In 1912 the A.C.R. was built through that area and later the elevator. This meant a great deal to the farmers who had previously hauled their grain to town with horses.

In November 1912, fire destroyed the Gehrke barn along with 16 cows and over 20 horses and a loft full of feed. This was a serious loss for the family. Soon a shelter was built to house a few cows brought in from the range to milk. By spring some horses were purchased and Mr. Plummer, a kind neighbor, loaned them four horses to help put in the crop.

During the summer, a new hip roof barn with a lean-to on the east side was built. In 1929 this barn was lost by fire caused by a spark from the lighting plant which was running at the time. Mr. Gehrke was able to get a bull out and Sam got the horse. Later that fall another barn was built.

The Gehrke home was always open to those who called. In those days the doors were never locked. One dark summer night after midnight Mrs. Gehrke was busy making butter, her usual time for that chore, when she heard a noise outside on the doorstep. As she turned to see what it was, a large hand slowly opened the screen door and a slightly inebriated neighbor came in looking for his home. He had been to town and had had trouble finding his way after dark. Needless to say she was a bit

upset, but after a lunch and a cup of hot green tea she headed him in the right direction for home.

Sandy Gehrke had the first car in the district. It was a Ford purchased from Mr. Wilson who had a dairy farm east of Red Deer. When the first Chevrolet cars came to Red Deer, Mr. Wilson bought one and sold the Ford. Al McCune, a neighbor, taught Sandy how to drive it and after a year Sandy traded it to Bert McCune for a horse.

While Thomas Gehrke was in Saskatchewan he had a serious accident. He was pulled into a well with the cribbage he was helping a neighbor to lower, landing on his feet, which left him crippled.

After a lengthy stay in hospital he came home. He was janitor at the Shady Nook school for several years and passed away at the Olds Senior Citizens Home Oct. 13, 1961.

William went to Delburne and took a homestead there. He married Edith Little; they had four children, two sons and two daughters. A son died in 1922. They had three grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. William passed away in October 1974.

Bella married John McLeod and they farmed in the Craig district. They had three daughters, three grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. Bella passed away in 1954.

Ed married Marie Kerry and they live in Red Deer. Ed worked for the C.P.R. Express and later was Customs Broker. They have two daughters and three grandchildren.

Rebecca married Dave Hall and farmed in Shady Nook. They had seven children. Rebecca passed away in 1921.

Alexander (Sandy) married Myrtle Archibald. They live in Red Deer. They had seven children.

John married Thelma Mayhew and farmed in Shady Nook. They had one son, two grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Robert married Margaret Stromson. They lived in Chicago. Robert was a barber. They had two children. Bob passed away in 1975.

GEHRKE, SAMUEL R. AND ANNE

In March 1925 Sam married Anne Wilson of the Ridgewood district. They built a cottage on his father's farm and Sam and his brother John worked with their dad.

In 1935 the family, (by then there were three children; one girl and two boys) moved to B.C. and Sam worked for the Saskatchewan Life Insurance Co. In 1937 when Mr. Gehrke Sr. passed away, Anne and the children came back and stayed with Mrs. Gehrke until she passed away in 1939.

The family then bought SE¼ 29-37-28-W4 from Richard Soderquist and with the help of kind neighbors and family moved their house over, then later built a barn. While there in 1942 Patricia Anne, a second daughter, arrived.

Later they sold to Gordon Stickland and bought N.W.¼ 33-37-28-W4 from Sam Wilson and were there until 1947 when they sold to Robert Pearson and moved to Red Deer and built a home. Sam worked on maintenance at Lindsay Thurber School for several years, then went into the painting business which he



The Sam Gehrke family, 1963. Back Row — Bill, Sam, Annie, holding Maureen Tyler, Lily Tyler, Bob. Second Row — Marie, Pat, Tim Tyler, Patty. Front Row — Wanda, Linda, Steven Tyler, Laurie, Lynn Tyler, Randy Tyler.

carried on until he became ill in 1963. He passed away in June 1964.

The family are Lillian Tyler of Calgary. She has her degree in Social Work, is married to Dr. F. H. (Tim) Tyler, of the Social Work Department at the University of Calgary. They have two sons, and two daughters.

William J. (Bill) is an aero mechanic, married to Marie Perry of Delburne. They live in Calgary and have two daughters.

Robert S. (Bob) is a pilot, married to Patricia Rohl of Calgary. They live in Calgary, and have a son and a daughter.

Patricia A. (Pat) has her degree in Education, is married to Reginald MacDougall who is a high school principal in Calgary. They have a son and two daughters.

In 1968, Sam's widow Anne married John Bickley of Ridgewood and they live in Red Deer.

GEHRKE, JOHN

John Gehrke married Thelma Mayhew of the district in 1919 and started farming with his dad August and brother Sam. He was originally from Brudnell, Ontario and had lived in the Waskasoo district for 3 years.

They had one son Orville born in 1920.

The year 1924 was a particularly hard year; after a very tough winter they were hailed out in the summer. Orville had a ruptured appendix and was in hospital 32 days. Two months later his mother (Thelma) had the same operation.

John Gehrke was a good neighbour and farmer; he was a great horseman and loved his stock. He was for many years a trustee on the Shady Nook School Board.

John and Thelma built a new house in Red Deer in 1941 and lived in it for one year, then moved back to the farm. In 1942 they built a house on part of the Stephan Rogers quarter, south of the Burnt Lake Trail. John Gehrke was killed in 1945 in a tragic tractor accident.

Thelma Gehrke remarried in 1950 to Ed Linton who was a herdsman at Lacombe Experimental Farm. They now live at Lacombe in retirement.

GEHRKE, ORVILLE AND RUTH

Orville was born July 18, 1920. He took all his schooling at Shady Nook and recalls the very cold winter in 1935. He maintained a record of perfect attendance that year. Several times the only students at school were Ted Whitehead and Orville. After finishing grade eight, Orville worked on the farm for a while and then took a job with the new Eaton's store in 1939. He served a couple of years in the army and after his discharge, not being able to get farming out of his blood, returned to the farm.

Ruth was a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Wesley Sole. She spent her growing years at Chinook, Byemoor, Dickson, and finally the Springvale district, where she took all her grades of school. Ruth worked for seven years as a nurse's aid at the Red Deer hospital. On June 9, 1941 Ruth and Orville were married.

Orville played ball and hockey with the Shady Nook teams for quite a few years and was one of the fastest runners to come out of Shady Nook. He was also a member of our Sod Buster Orchestra. He has been fond of horses all his life and is the only farmer around here with a few Percheron horses.

They have two sons: Dick, born July 26, 1945 and George, born October 24, 1952.

Dick, now Dr. Richard Gehrke of Rocky Mountain House, married Janice Setters of Red Deer in January, 1966. They have one son, Tyson and one daughter, Tanis.

George married Brenda Shiels on June 30, 1973. They live in Red Deer, where George is a postal employee.

GORDAY, GARNET AND GLORIA

Garnet is the third son of Bill and Elizabeth Gorday, formerly of Unity, Saskatchewan. He was born there in 1951 and moved with his parents to Lacombe in 1964. He finished his schooling there and then took a course at N.A.I.T. where he became a qualified baker.

Gloria, the eldest daughter of Vernon and Thelma Kamlak of the Lincoln district (east of Gull Lake) was born in 1953. She attended school at Crestomere until the end of Grade nine and went to high school in Lacombe.



Gloria, Garnet and Jason Gorday.

While going to high school she began dating Garnet occasionally. After successfully completing high school, she trained as a hair dresser and practiced her trade at Lac La Biche.

Garnet and Gloria both happened to move to Red Deer at the same time and began dating again. They were married on October 7, 1972. They lived in a three-room apartment for two months, then moved to a three-bedroom townhouse for the next four years. On October 14, 1975 they were blessed with the arrival of their son, Jason Ashley Earl.

By September of 1976 Garnet decided that the mid-night shift at the bakery was incompatible with the family life he desired, so he accepted a job with Armitage Farms. They have lived in the old Armitage house for the past four months and are pleased to be a part of the Shady Nook Community.

GREER, MR. AND MRS. WILLIAM

Mr. and Mrs. Greer came to Shady Nook from Elgin, Manitoba. He had traded his store there to E. P. Cronquist for the E. 1/2 of Section 8. The Greers had one child, an adopted girl, Norma.

In 1919 he sold the farm to Richard Soderquist and went to work for T. A. Gaetz in Red Deer. Some time later he bought the McDougal store in Penhold. He sold that store to Walker and another man. He returned to Red Deer where he purchased the T. Lowe store, later selling that one to Johnathan Lowe. In 1921 he went back to farming for 4 years in the Clearview district and in 1925 was appointed manager of the UFA Co-op store at Penhold. In March of 1928 the Greers moved to Vancouver Island.

HALL, DAVID

David Hall came from Ontario in 1903 to take a homestead on S.E. 1/4 16-38-28-4. He was married to the former Rebecca Gehrke in 1908.

In the first years of their marriage, David's father James Hall lived with them. In 1921 Mrs. Hall passed away leaving seven small children, Gilbert now of Medicine Hat; John now of Haney, B.C.; Dan now of Vancouver, B.C.; Lavina (Mrs. Gordon Stewart) of Invermere, B.C.; Olive (Mrs. Bill Ardell) of Victoria, B.C.; Elsie, (Mrs. Glen Lutz) of Shady Nook District; Ellis Wiggins of Calgary. The youngest son being a baby of one month at the time of Mrs. Hall's death, was raised by Mr. and Mrs. John Wiggins.

Later Mr. Hall's two brothers, Gordon and George, came to work in this area. Gordon Hall bought the N.W. 1/4 15-38-28-W4. They all remained in this area until their passing.

HAMBROOK, ARCHIE AND VIRGINIA

Archie Hambrook bought N. 1/2-16-38-28-W4, in 1937. He brought Virginia here in 1941. Gordon A. was born in 1942; Faith A. was born in 1943; and Hope V. was born in 1944. Faith teaches in Edmonton; Bud (Gordon) has operated Border Asphalt plant for the past eighteen years; and Hope supervises at Data Centre in Red Deer. To this date (1976) they have all remained single.

HAMMER, GEORGE AND MILDRED

Mr. Hammer came from northeast of Donalda. He was of Swedish descent. His wife was Mildred Fisher of

Hazel Ridge, Manitoba. They had three daughters: Bonnie, Heather and Betty.

The Hammers lived on the farmstead owned by Byron Raymer on N.W. of 3-38-28-W.4. Mr. Raymer bought the lumber and the Hammers built the little house there. The Hammers did not farm this quarter but used some for pasture land and rented the N.W. of 21 from Charlie and Al McCune for two years. They were unable to become established in our district, living here only in 1942 and 1943.

HAYNES, ERIC

Eric was an old friend of the Porter boys. We believe he lived with them in England and came here with them and remained one of the family. Eric did most of the farming, all of it after Bob and Max were married. He farmed this land for Mrs. Edith Porter until 1940. He joined the army that year and was stationed at Petawawa, Ontario. Nothing is known of his location or activities since then.

HARDEN, HEATHER DENISE

Heather Harden was born in Newmarket, Ontario in 1948. She attended Memorial University of Newfoundland, Trent University and the University of Alberta, where she is in the process of completing her Ph.D. in anthropology. She and her husband, Dr. Gary Botting (q.v.) have two children Tanya Michelle Harden Botting (born 1970) and Trent Gary Norman Arthur Harden Botting (born 1975).

Her hobbies are reading, redecorating and horses. Major projects (besides keeping her kids, horses and husband in line) are redecorating and renovating the "new" (built in 1904) addition to their house at S.W. 4-38-28-W.4, moved from the W. G. Stickland farm seven miles south. The addition, when completed, will give Heather and Gary offices and library space for their 6,000-book library.

Heather has received more scholarships than any other graduate student in Alberta, and in 1976 received the prestigious Sir Izaak Walton Killam Scholarship for \$6,000 for her excellence in research in philosophical anthropology. Her thesis will focus on religious groups in Central Alberta.

She has received considerable publicity for her research, which in many ways is a "breakthrough" in traditional areas of anthropology and philosophy.

Although she teaches part time at Red Deer College, she spends a lot of her time researching her dissertation. She has also purchased a valuable Arabian stallion from Warren Fertig, vice-principal of River Glen School, and hopes to start a stud farm.

HEWSON, BEN

Full time involvement by the Hewson family in the Shady Nook district dates back to March, 1936 when Benjamin John Hewson took over the family farm which lay 1½ miles east and ½ mile south of the Shady Nook School. Ben took over the farm after the death of his father, William Thomas Hewson, who had operated the farm during the summer months for some twenty years. Ben was born February 24, 1885 in Hamilton, Ontario, and came west with his father and family to the Olds district in 1892. They moved to the Red Deer area in



Hewsons golden wedding July 31, 1957 showing Leslie and Sidney standing, Annie, Ben and Freda seated.

1895, where he resided until his passing on April 24, 1962. On July 31, 1907, Ben married Annie McBlane, fourth daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Alexander McBlane of Red Deer, and they had three children, Freda Louise, now Freda Louise Harder of Calgary; Sidney John, now living in Westlock, Alberta; and Leslie William, now residing in Red Deer. Ben, along with his father and his younger brother Cecil, were known far and wide for their fine horses, horses which won prizes both locally and nationally. Ben purchased the quarter formerly owned by Billie O'Neil in 1939 and with the help of his two sons, farmed the three quarters of land until his retirement in 1954. Ben and Annie Hewson retired to the town of Sylvan Lake in 1955 where they lived until Ben passed away in 1962. Annie Hewson then moved to Red Deer where she lived until her passing on June 11, 1973, just four days short of her 88th birthday. Both were life members of the Central Alberta Old Timers Association. The farm was purchased from Ben and Annie by the Glen Lutz family, who still farm it.

HEWSON, SIDNEY

Sid was born in Red Deer on July 15, 1917 and came to the Shady Nook district with his father in 1936. He worked on the family farm until 1941 when he became employed by the Searle Grain Co. at their Mintlaw elevator which was in the Shady Nook District. The Mintlaw elevator has since been torn down and like so many other things is but a memory.

On June 14, 1938, Sid married Olive Dell Smith, oldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. V. Smith of Valley Centre district. Together Sid and Dell had three children, Gail Marie, now Mrs. Don Dennis of Winnipeg; Gloria Mae, now Mrs. Ray Wilkenson of Calgary; and William James of High River, Alberta. Sid and Dell lived on the family farm until 1947, when they moved for a short time to the farm now occupied by the Joe Cloutier family, ½ mile east and ½ mile north of Shady Nook school. From there, they transferred to south Eckville and then to Busby, Alberta, about fifty miles northwest of Edmonton. By this time Sid had decided to seek his living

at a different type of work and after taking a home study course in assessing, and receiving his certificate, he left the Searle and went into municipal work. He is now the Secretary-Treasurer of the town of Westlock where he and Dell make their home.

HEWSON, LESLIE

Les was born March 4, 1926 in Red Deer and came with his father to the Shady Nook district in 1936 where he attended both Shady Nook schools. He left the classroom in June, 1941 to take up farming when his older brother left to work for the elevator company. Les took Grade 11 by correspondence during the winter of 1942-43, a winter which proved to be one of the most severe ever recorded here. Digging feed for the animals by day and studying by night proved to be a pretty heavy schedule and Les gave up his studies to go at farming full time in June, 1942. He never lost interest in the school, however, and ended up marrying the teacher, Lily Frances Wilson on July 9, 1947. Frances is the third daughter of Mr. and Mrs. D. J. Wilson of Consort, Alberta. Les and Frances have five children, Margaret Ann (now Mrs. Glen Forrester of Jasper), John William and David Allan, both living in Blackfalds and Donald Leslie and James Edward still living at home. Les farmed until 1954 when allergies forced him to leave and seek other employment. He started with the City of Red Deer in September 1954 and is still employed there as a Water Treatment Plant Operator. Les and Frances reside in Red Deer.



Leslie Hewson ready for school.

HIVES, ALFRED AND STELLA (MAIDIE)

Alfred Hives was born at Ashfordby, Lestershire, England, on July 29, 1891. There were seven brothers and six sisters in the large Hives family. They came to Canada and the Fairlands district (NW Penhold) in 1905. Alfred worked at the Indian School for several years. He bought the N.½ of 11-38-28-W.4 in 1916. Some of the land on this farm was broke with a Titan tractor and a two-bottom plow, owned by the Indian School farm.

When the Indian School closed to pupils, Alfred was sent to the Indian School at Lac La Ronge. He was farm manager there.

On February 7, 1924 he was married to Stella (Maidie) Moore. Maidie had come from Montreal and was working in the school at Lac La Ronge.

The Hives sold the farm in Shady Nook in 1926. Alfred and Maidie both worked for a time at the Indian School at Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario.

In the later part of the 1930's they returned to the home town in England to look after two old aunts. Alfred died in late 1945 or early 1946. He is buried at Ashfordby. Maidie returned to Canada. Her sister was married to Jack Hives of Vancouver. After Jack's death, Maidie went to live with her sister and passed away at Vancouver in 1971. The Hives had no children.

HOFF, DANNY AND ALICE

Philip Danial Hoff was born in Mair, a small farming community located in the southeast corner of Saskatchewan. Danny was the seventh child born to Marjorie and Henry Hoff.

Henry came from Superior Wisconsin to settle in the Mair district in 1909. Here, Henry established a blacksmith shop. A few years later he married Marjorie Patten. The Patten family were among the districts's first settlers moving there from Iowa.

During those early years, Henry kept busy in his shop, shoeing horses, setting wagon wheels and sharpening plough shares. The local farmers kept the young blacksmith busy working over his forge.

In the corner of the shop was a small office. It was here Henry kept his business records and a barber's chair. A customer could have his horse shoed, step into the office to pay his bill, and get Henry to cut his hair at the same time. Often these hair cuts were paid for with eggs, milk or other forms of barter.

The hamlet of Mair never did expand much but it did become an active community centre for the local farming district. There was a store (which also served as a post office), a hall, a train station, livery stable, a curling rink and, of course, the blacksmith shop. Only three families lived in Mair.

As a boy, the curling rink became one of Danny's favorite haunts. Henry was caretaker of the rink, so like his older brothers and sisters, Danny started to curl as soon as he could get a rock down the ice.

In those days there was no power company, so Henry set up his own power plant. This plant not only served the Hoff's home and shop, but the rest of the buildings in Mair as well as homes, store, curling rink and hall.

By the early forties, business at the blacksmith shop had slowed down. Times were changing, so Henry and Marjorie purchased some land and decided to try their

luck at farming. Henry still kept his shop open and farmed as a side line.

A few years later, Marjorie died. Danny was only nine at the time. Henry now had the job of raising a nine-year-old son alone. The rest of the children were several years older than Danny, so were already gone by this time or left shortly after.

The remainder of Danny's childhood years were spent going to school and helping with farm chores. In the winter he set out a trap line. As a boy he loved to hunt, swim, and play ball and hockey. In the winter of course, he still spent as much time as possible at the curling rink.

While still in his teens, Danny headed for the oil fields in the Weyburn area. Later, he found work right in the city of Weyburn, where in 1960 he first met Alice Blanche Anderson.

The background of Alice's family is every bit as interesting. In 1904 her grandfather left Manitoba to settle in Saskatchewan. Nate Anderson built a two-room log cabin on his homestead near Scrip, about twenty miles from Rose Valley. In 1905, Margaret Blanche Mortan travelled to Quill Lake from Mantioba, where she had been waiting for Nate to send for her. Nate met her in Quill Lake where the young couple were married. To get to the homestead from Quill Lake, the newlyweds travelled by horse and buggy. The trail led across country, weaving through miles of bush. Few settlers had found their way to this part of Saskatchewan in 1905. Nate's new bride would be the third white woman in the Scrip district.

The young couple bumped along the rough trail to their honeymoon cabin. The groom stopped the horses in a quiet spot, thinking he would finally have a chance to kiss his pretty young bride. The bride, being a rather modest young lady, blushed deeply then begged young Nate not to take such liberties: she was afraid someone might see them! This was a source of amusement to Alice's grandfather for many years.

Life on the homestead was hard for the young couple. Nate was born at Fort Garry, which is now Winnipeg. Before moving west, he had at one time worked as a reporter on an early Winnipeg paper.

Blanche was born in Ontario, then moved to Manitoba. Life on the Saskatchewan homestead held drastic changes for Blanche. She was a small woman, barely five feet tall and weighing less than a hundred pounds not appearing to be sturdy enough for the grueling task ahead of her.

But appearances can be deceiving. Nate and Blanche raised a family of ten healthy children on their Saskatchewan homestead. Alice's father was the oldest of this brood.

Born in 1906, Vernal Anderson was the eldest of seven sons and three daughters. Vernal learned to trap at an early age and also help with the farming. In 1936 Alice's father and mother were married. Anne Berthelot was born in southern Saskatchewan. She grew up in the Willow Bunch, Fife Lake area. It was near Fife Lake that her parents farmed.

Anne was the second oldest of a family of five. When she was only six, her mother died. After her mother's death, she was raised in a convent, and then a foster home. As soon as she was old enough she started working

out as a hired girl. The hours were long and her pay was an amazing five dollars a month! During the thirties, things were so bad in southern Saskatchewan that Anne moved north. It was this move that eventually led her to the Scrip district, where he met Vernal.

After their marriage, Vernal and Anne settled on a farm about two miles from the Anderson homestead. In 1944, they bought a farm in the Sigstad district, as they could be closer to a school yet still not far from the homestead. It was on this farm that Alice grew up. She was the third member of a family of four children, two boys and two girls.

She remembers getting up for school on cold winter mornings. Her Mom would be up first, stoking up the stoves and lighting the lamps. They had no power in that area of Saskatchewan until around 1956, and had no plant of their own.

"On winter morning's the house was freezing cold," Alice recalls. As a child I'd grab my clothes and rush out to dress by the heater, to avoid frost bite. As I grew older I became too modest for this, and became quite adept at dressing under the covers.

"After dressing we'd all take turns washing in the old tin basin. First the basin was placed on the kitchen stove, to melt the ice that had formed on it overnight. Man that old kitchen was cold! Mom and dad would be off to do the chores, as soon as the fires were going. Making our lunch and fixing breakfast was up to us kids. Often we had other chores to do as well, before leaving for school.

"There was no big yellow school bus to rush us off to school. We either walked or rode a horse. Often when we started off for school with a horse, we ended up walking anyway. We had some pretty wild ones!

"By the time we reached school, we were half frozen. The school was seldom warm when we got there. Often the first half of the day was spent crowding around the big 'warm morning heater' trying to thaw out. The school was like many others across the country, one room, with one teacher, teaching all the grades.

"During the fifties the rain came. Our roads became mud holes. Many people went back to using the good old horse and buggy for transportation, leaving their cars parked. In the spring of the year, going to school became a hazard. There was one place crossing a small lake, where the water had risen right over the road, and some places the road was washed away completely. Some of our neighbors used a boat to cross the lake so they could get to school.

"My brother and I rode our horse across. The water was usually only up to the horses' bellies, except for one spot where the water was so deep, we always managed to get our feet and legs wet. I'll never know how we managed not to land in the lake. I was about eleven at the time, and my kid brother was seven. We rode double. We had no saddle, so I clung to the horses mane and Charles hung on to me.

"The fifties were hard on the farmers in our area. Often they couldn't get a crop planted because of the rain, and if you were lucky enough to seed your fields, combining them was often impossible. One spring I watched my father burn his unharvested fields. Dad had always done some trapping to supplement our farm income. For a few years during the fifties he increased his trap lines. In late fall dad would chop his way into the

numerous muskrat houses that dotted the sloughs which seemed to cover a good deal of our farm land. Then again in the spring, dad would set his traps out, riding his horse up to each rat house, or wading in himself with the aid of hip waders. It was cold, wet work.

"I hated our little log house during that period. It always seemed to be filled with drying muskrats. After a day's trapping, dad would sit listening to the radio and skin the muskrats he had caught that day. Mom did her part too. She would stretch the skin over the drying board, tacking it in place. When the skin was dry, my little brother and I would remove the tacks, and help pull the dry pelts off the boards. I hated the looks and smell of those drying muskrats!

"There was one muskrat who never made it to dad's stretching board though, and I'll always remember him. I found the little fellow running on top of the snow, one cold winter's day, on my way home from school. He was a small fellow, half frozen and half starved. Muskrats can be quite vicious, and when I tried to pick him up, he turned on me. After some length I was able to grab him by the tail, and carried him home that way. Dad wanted to put the little fellow out of misery and add the pelt to his collection. I cried so much that dad, being soft hearted and knowing my love for animals, finally agreed to let me keep him, if I could find a place for him. Then I began to work on my mother. After much pleading, mom allowed me to keep my new pet under the sink, where she usually kept her slop pails. This was a real sacrifice on her part, as our home was small and crowded.

"Soon Little Joe made himself quite at home, not just under the sink but in every room of the house. You might see him running about the house, carrying a toy in his mouth or playing with a marble, much the same as a cat would."

"Little Joe didn't seem to mind me picking him up and always seemed to enjoy it when I petted him. The rest of my family were a little leary of this sharp toothed fellow, and kept their distance. Then one night after the rest of us were in bed, mom decided to try her luck at petting Joe. She'd seen me do it so often, and the little guy seemed friendly enough.

"Mom still bears the scars from that night! She had barely set Joe on her lap, when he sunk his long sharp teeth into her leg. It took dad some time to stop the bleeding. I felt sure Little Joe had sealed his own death warrant, but luck was with him.

"Shortly after this, I came down with scarlet fever, and had to be taken to the hospital. It was spring break-up by this time and roads were a mixture of mud holes and snow banks. Dad and mom took me the first ten miles with a team and buggy. At this point, the roads became a little better. A friend from town met us and took me the last ten miles.

"Meanwhile, back at the farm, Joe was having a great time. By this time my little furry friend had learned to open cupboard doors. He'd just reach his little paw up and pull under the bottom edge. Usually when he'd open a door it was quickly closed. This time, though, no one was there to hinder him. Soon he had all my mother's cook books in the middle of the kitchen floor and was busy chewing them to pieces. Either he was trying to build a new house and just couldn't find proper material, or he was just plain picking on mom. This was just too

much for poor mom. When I got home from the hospital, Joe had been relocated in the cattle shed, and this is where I found him.

"The year I was fourteen, money on the farm was extremely tight. I was going away to high school and needed some new clothes very badly. So with this fact in mind, my girl friend and I decided to do some trapping. This was an extremely hard decision for me. I hated the thought of killing a muskrat, but did I need the money! The two of us set out our trap line, setting out at dawn to check our traps before heading for school. It was the spring of the year and we rode our horses into the sloughs the same as I'd seen my dad do. After school we'd check our traps again. In the evening I'd skin the muskrats and Darlene would stretch them. When I look back now, I know I must have been very desperate to go to such lengths to get new clothes for school?"

The next few years Alice spent going to high school. Then she found her way to Weyburn, and was staying there with her sister and brother-in-law when she met Danny. A few months later they were married.

At first they lived in Weyburn, where Gerry and Connie were born. Shortly after Connie was born, they rented Alice's grandfathers's homestead from her uncle; they had high hopes of becoming farmers, with Danny and dad becoming partners. Then Alice's father was killed. His tractor tipped crushing him beneath it. Plans to make their living farming had to be shelved. Danny took a job with Federal Grain, as an elevator manager. His first point was in Hendan; later he was transferred to Nora. Both these points were within driving distance of the land they had rented, so they were able to continue farming it. In 1967 Verna Lee Marjorie was born.

In 1970 Federal Grain sold the company. Danny went to work for Mid West Drilling in northern Manitoba. For the next year and a half, the girls and Alice saw Danny for only a few days every six weeks. The rest of the time he was in a bush camp. Except for the summer of '71 when they joined Danny in Thompson, Manitoba where Robert Danial (Bobby) was born! Seeing each other every six weeks was no way to live, so in the spring of 1972 they decided to make a change.

The song "Alberta Bound" was playing on the truck radio as they crossed the border from Saskatchewan. At first they just moved as far as Ester, just across the border. They only spent a year here, finding the country desolate; also, the children's bus trip to school in Oyen was entirely too long.

August 1st, 1973 Danny started work at Armitage farms and the Hoff's became new members of the Shady Nook district. At first they lived in a trailer in the Armitage farmyard. On June 1st, 1974, they moved into the company house just north of the farm.

"Since moving here", says Alice, "we've enjoyed landscaping our yard and growing a garden. Both Danny and I enjoy gardening. Nature seems to be against us though. Our first garden was hit by early frost. The following two years hail decided to visit us. Mr. Wind had to have a turn too: last fall he blew our green house over. The night was cold, so old man frost froze everything in it".

Danny still loves to curl. Since moving here he has especially enjoyed the Red Deer Farmers Bonspiel. He also

enjoys golfing and fishing. Most of all he loves camping in the Rockies.

Alice started selling Fuller Brush products shortly after moving here.

"I'm not a very good saleswoman," she says, "but I love meeting the warm friendly people in this area. I also like refinishing furniture. I especially enjoyed the course held at Shady Nook the fall of 1975. Gerry got a horse a couple years ago. The horse was only a year old when we got her. I've always loved horses, so have really enjoyed helping Gerry with hers.

"The kids all love it here. Country living gives them a chance to have lots of pets — two dogs, a cat and a bird plus two rabbits (both males) as well as the horse".

Gerry and Connie both belong to 4-H and enjoy having club calves. This is Connie's first year in the club; Gerry has been in the club three years. The first year Gerry was in the club, her calf won Grand Champion.

"We love Alberta and are glad we chose this area to live in", writes Alice. "Shady Nook, we think you're great!"

HAUER, LOUIE

Louie Hauer was a bachelor who came from Austria. For three years (1933-35) he rented S.W. 2 and raised a large number of turkeys.

HOPE, WILLIAM

William Hope rented the S.W. of 4 in 1913. He was a coal dealer in Red Deer.

He used this quarter for horse pasture.

HULL, WILLIAM

William Hull began teaching school at Shady Nook in Jan. 1907. He was here for six months, and bached in a tent on the land just south of the school. Tent living must have been difficult that winter, because 1906-07 was the worst winter that has ever come to Alberta.

Mr. Hull was a very strict disciplinarian. At that time the Eric Johanson family lived on the 5th meridian straight west of the school.

One hot day in the summer, John Johanson and his school chum, Harry Wiggins decided to water their horses during the noon hour. They rode them half a mile south to the slough. It was boggy around the edges, so the boys figured the only way to water them was to corduroy a road across the mud. They eventually got enough brush tramped into the mud so that the horses went out and drank, and now feeling that they had done their good deed for the day, returned to class, one and one half hours late. Mr. Hull promptly gave them severe punishment, that was described as a "whale of a licking".

Needless to say, after that the horses didn't need water at noon!

IONSON

Mr. Ionson came from Souris, Manitoba in 1933 or 1934. He lived at the Sam Wilson farm for two years and was very fond of Clyde horses. There was a breeding club that took in parts of Shady Nook, Burnt Lake and Ridgewood Districts. Mr. Ionson traveled the stallion, his own horse, for a couple of years. He was getting along in years; his health was not good. When he retired Jim Armstrong took over his duties with another horse. In the early days a strong statement about which was the

best breed of horse was enough to cause a fight right then and there. It was probably a good thing for us that Mr. Ionson was past his best when he came to this district, as he would tolerate no criticism of his Bonnie McClyde.

JACKSON, BRIAN AND LAURA LYNN

Brian left his parents' home in New Brunswick in 1969 to find work in Toronto, Ontario. He worked there until 1971 and that year moved to Red Deer.

He married Laura Lynn Wilton, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Roy Wilton, and they lived in a little house along the Burnt Lake Trail, just north of the Indian School.

Brian worked in Red Deer until the spring of 1976 and has recently moved to Manning in the Peace River Block.

They have an infant son.

JENKINS, GEORGE

George and his parents left the Balmoral district northeast of Red Deer to come west of the river in the spring of 1920. They moved to the S.W. of 20 in the Ridgewood district. George lived at home most of the time until his father's passing. His living in Shady Nook was pretty well confined to batching in a tent while putting in and taking off the crop. George bought the north half of 33-37-28-W.4. He grew quite a lot of wheat in the 1920's. One year with wheat at \$2.25 per bushel he sold three carloads. His heart was never really in farming, but rather in those two interesting pastimes of playing cards and running the ponies. The wealth of the Jenkins family slipped through his fingers and he left the farm before 1930.

He was the happy owner of a well-known trotting horse by the name of Itchy Patch and later a son of Itchy Patch called Dan Patch. The first horse was the better of the two and for a few years he travelled the harness circuit in parts of the United States and all of Western Canada. Itchy was a deceiving horse — he looked like a little Clyde with his dark red coat and black hairy legs. Those who did not know the horse would not bet on him so when he won he paid off very well. George and his horse won many races because of the overconfidence of his opposition who looked at the horse and thought he could not run.

In the early depression years there were only a few men left on the harness racing circuit and they stayed in-



George Jenkins, John and Oscar Silverberg.

business (it was rumored) by taking turns at winning the prize. George had all the ups and downs of the average gambling man. Whenever in need of a job he would go to work for a month or two for Charlie Hollenbeck or Cliff Braithwaite and he was considered to be the only hired man qualified to take charge of the feeding and care of the horses. George was pretty well out of a job on the farms once the day of the horse was ended. This genial, friendly man loved horses of all sizes and kinds. When his days of following the races were over, he went training the trotters for other men. He spent several years in the Edmonton, Consort, and Provost areas and about 1960 moved to Saskatchewan to do some training there. The socialist government of Saskatchewan saw fit to put a tax on the race tracks as well as on the bettors. George was very bitter and severely critical of its policies and it is ironic that he was to spend his long declining years as a guest of the government in an old folks home at Prince Albert. He died in the autumn of 1973 at 85 years of age.

JENSEN, HARRY AND MARGARET

Harry is the oldest son of Aage and Gerta Jensen. His parents came from Denmark to Tofield, Alberta. In the spring of 1942 they bought the family farm at Dickson. Harry worked at home for a few years. He left to spend ten years in the oil industry. After that he was in partnership with Elmer Kure. They ran a guiding and outfitting camp in Wood Buffalo Park. In 1956, Harry bought the Herby Westergaard farm at Dickson. On April 4, 1964 he married Margaret Cliffe.

Margaret, a daughter of Ross and Annie Cliffe was born in Sexsmith in 1942. She came with her parents to Shady Nook in October, 1944. They moved to Red Deer in 1956.

The Jensens ran a mixed farm. They built up a forty-sow farrowing project and bought feeder cattle. In 1970 they established a cow herd, and sold the farm in 1973. That spring they bought an acreage from Don Morrison at the N.W. corner of Sec. 10. They built a fine new home in Shady Nook, from where Harry operates a fork lift business.

The Jensens have three children: Warren, born Dec. 26, 1965; Ward, born Dec. 27, 1969; and a chosen girl, Carolyn, born April, 1971.



Back Row — Naomi Johanson, Mrs. C. J. Johanson, Mrs. J. P. Anderson, Grandpa Svein Johanson, Mr. C. A. Persson (Pearson), Mr. C. J. Johanson. Middle Row — Mrs. C. A. Persson (Pearson), Agnes Anderson, Helga Anderson, Persson's hired man, Fred Pearson. Front Row (Sitting) — Mrs. Bertha Besheers and Teena, Annie Johanson, Carl Anderson, Robert Pearson, Arvid Johanson, Philip Anderson, Ted Anderson, about 1912.

JOHANSON, SVEIN

Mr. Johanson was born in Sweden September 16, 1836 and married in 1858 to Anna H. Erickson. He was a carpenter by trade, specializing in houses and cabinet making. They came to Aiken, Minn., U.S.A., where they took up a homestead. They returned to Sweden and in 1894 the Johnson's, with their son Carl Johon, came to the Shady Nook district, homesteading on the E. ½ 6-28-38-W4th. He built their home and much of their furniture. They were members of the Lutheran Church. Mrs. Johanson died in 1906 and Mr. Johanson in 1925. Both are buried at the Burnt Lake Cemetery.

JOHANSON, CARL JOHON EDWARD

Carl Johon Edward Johnson came from Lidköping, Sweden with his parents in 1883 to Aitken, Minn. He returned to Sweden in 1887. Carl married Matilda Strom in 1890. In 1894, with their two small children, Annie and Carl, they came to the Shady Nook district. Naomi, Mary, Arvid, and Conrad were born later. Carl homesteaded the S.E. 6-38-28-4. Needing a cash income, the Johansons moved to Hector, B.C., where they operated a hotel and boarding house. Mr. Johanson also worked on the C.P.R.

Mr. and Mrs. Johanson were active members of the Lutheran Church at Burnt Lake.

After a long illness, Mr. Johanson died at his home in 1945. His wife died two years later. Both are buried in the Burnt Lake Cemetery.

The children all attended school at Shady Nook.

Mary trained for a nurse at the Calgary General Hospital. After her graduation she married Frank Stevens of Didsbury and nursed for many years at the hospital there. They have two children.

Annie married Joseph Davis and they have two daughters and one son. Mrs. Davis makes her home with her sister, Miss Naomi Johanson.



Mary Johanson.



Arvid Johanson.

JOHANSON, ARVID

Arvid went to the U of A and graduated in medicine in 1933. He married Miss Helen Blackburn of Lethbridge and practiced medicine at Raymond, McLeod, Exshaw, and Salmon Arm, B.C. He enlisted in the Medical Corps during the Second World War. After the war he practiced in Calgary. He was a member of the North Hill United Church. He died April 28, 1962, and is buried in Queen's Park, Calgary. They had three children.

JOHANSON, CARL AND GRACE

Carl A. W., son of Carl Johan Edward Johanson married Grace Jacobson of the Joffre district. They farmed the S.W. 8-38-28-W4th for 42 years. Their home was destroyed by fire in 1950. They bought the house off



Carl Johanson.

the Mintlaw quarter, the former home of Murdie McDonald, and moved it to the farm.

After the death of Mr. Johanson, Mrs. Johanson and her sons, Morley and Ronald, farmed for several years. They sold the farm to Ed Schuetz in 1972 and moved to Red Deer.

Carl and Grace had four daughters and three sons. Morley works for Moduline Industries at the Base in Penhold. Ronald works for Ranger Construction. Mary, the eldest, married Norman Steele of the Willowdale district where they farm. They have a family of four girls and two boys. Phyllis married Robert Lott of Grande Prairie. They farm at Blueberry Mountain and have one boy and one girl. Alice married Robert Ramage and they live in Calgary. They have two boys and two girls. Joyce married Stanley Greiese of the Torrington district. Living in Calgary, they have two girls and one boy. Charlie married Arleen Hunter from the Edwell district. They reside in Red Deer and have one girl attending High School.

JOHANSON, CONRAD ALEXIS

Due to the illness of his parents, Conrad took over the responsibility of farm and family. He was an active member and delegate of the Alberta Wheat Pool. He died at his home at the age of 53 and is buried in the Burnt Lake Cemetery.



Conrad Johanson, Annie (Johanson) Davis, Frank Stevens, and Mary (Johanson) Stevens.

JOHANSON, NAOMI

Naomi was born March 25, 1896.

She took her teachers training at Camrose and taught for several years in Brookfield, Shady Nook, Hanna, and Eckville. She retired from teaching in 1935 due to ill health. She lives on the home place with her sister Mrs. Annie Davis.



Miss Naomi Johanson when she taught at Marianne, 1921-22.

JOHNSON, CARL AND CONRAD

Carl and Conrad Johnson were brothers. They came from Minnesota in 1901 with the John Peter Anderson family. They purchased land from the C.P.R., the N.E. 31-37-28-W4. They built a small square house. There have been additions built on this house twice since then. It is now the home of Ties Westra and before that, it belonged to Fred Pearson.

Johnsons bought some high quality padded furniture cheaply in Minneapolis and brought it with them. They later found out that the furniture had come from a home in which several members of the family had died. Conrad became ill and after a lingering illness, passed away in 1904. Johnsons believed he had become infected from the furniture. Carl left Shady Nook after Conrad's death — destination unknown.

JOHNSON, ED

Ed Johnson, one of the most interesting of the early settlers, lived on the south boundary of Shady Nook and worked for many farmers in this area. Johnson was a good hearted, generous fellow, ready to help anyone. He was fond of drinking, gambling, fighting and creating inventions. During the winter he would hunt, trap and work at blacksmithing.

In 1906, he worked with a skilful blacksmith in Red Deer named Ployle. They were accused of counterfeiting and in order to defend himself, Ed sold the farm for \$700. Ed then turned to his inventions. He had a gate that would open and close automatically. He built an aeroplane that would fly, but since he had no training as an operator, it crashed with him. He left the district in 1910 with another man's wife. Next he invented an attachment for a binder that would stook grain, and sold the patent for \$20,000. Reputedly, he lost \$18,000 of it in a poker game one night!

Ed was a great trader in cattle and horses. While away on a trip to the Peace River with some stock, his wife was murdered. Last seen in 1932, he was happy, going fishing with a lady companion and a bottle. At that time, he was 53.

JOHNSON, J. O.

Mr. and Mrs. J. O. Johnson moved from Markerville to the Langton farm in 1935 and on to the S. ¼-32-37-28 from 1941 to 1946. They had a herd of Holstein cows. Mrs. Johnson was formerly a Wilson. There were two boys in the family, Bob and Ralph. Bob gave his life in the 1939-45 war. Ralph lives in Calgary. Johnsons moved to Calgary when they left here.

JONES, GORDON AND LYDIA

Gordon and Lydia were married in England after Gordon finished service in the First World War. They came to Hanna, Alberta in 1919. Gordon was a conductor on the C.N.R. and in order to keep near his work, they moved many times. They came to Shady Nook from



Mrs. Eva Anderson, Mrs. Florence Anderson and Mrs. Lydia Jones going blueberry picking.

Mirror in the spring of 1934 and bought the S.W. 33-37-28-W4. With the help of hired men, Lydia ran the farm and kept the home fires burning. They sold out to Bayford Brothers in 1944. They moved to Red Deer for two years, Calgary for one year and on to West Vancouver until the spring of 1952. They returned to Shady Nook, purchased the Plummer quarter and lived here for several more years. Gordon's health was poor, so after he retired from the C.N.R., they again tried living at the Coast. The second farm was sold to Bayfords. The damp climate of B.C. did not agree with Gordon, and after two years, they once more came back to live the quiet country life. They rented the buildings from Bayfords and lived here until their passing. Gordon died in March of 1970. Lydia passed away in December, 1971. The Joneses had three children. Lucy, born in 1920, married Vic Raymer. They had one daughter Barbara. Her second marriage was to a man from Vancouver. Lucy lost her life in a car accident in California while holidaying there.

Ruby, born in 1923, married Bruce Simpson, formerly of Sylvan Lake. They have two sons, Gregory and James. They are retired now and live on one of the Pender Islands off the British Columbia Coast. Bill was born in 1929. He is married and lives in Burlington, Ontario. They also have two children.

KELLINGTON, ESTHER

Esther Kellington lived with Don and Maudie Wright for three years. She was born in Norway and immigrated to North Dakota with her parents the Lundens who then immigrated to Canada and homesteaded in Naicam, Saskatchewan. Esther met Clifford Kellington, whose parents also had a homestead around Naicam. They were married in 1924 and moved to Red Deer in 1942. Mrs. Kellington moved to a nursing home in Calgary in September of 1975. She passed away in Calgary on January 6th, 1976.

LAMAR, BUFORD AND HAROLD

In the summer of 1927 Buford and Harold Lamar seeing no future for steady work in Los Angeles started north in Harold's model T Ford car, picking up harvest work on the way. They crossed the border into Canada in August and arrived at an old school friend's home east of Innisfail.

That fall they worked for Richard Bourne. Buford worked that winter for Tom Sigurdson while Harold drove horses with loads of lumber to Rocky Mountain House from Lachlan Martin's mill north of town. Buford Otto Lamar was born in Iowa and Harold Nathan Lamar in Albion, Nebraska. There being a large family of seven children, their father rented farms or worked out on ranches and later on the railroad.

They learned at an early age to help their father break horses, which was a necessary way of life in those days. Having been dried out for several years, most of the family moved by car to Los Angeles in 1923. They worked when necessary en route as cash was hard to come by and travelling was slow on the dirt roads, with some planked roads in the desert.

In Los Angeles they worked at steel construction and any other work they could obtain. When Harold was old enough to get his driver's license he drove trucks, buses and taxis.

In the spring of 1928 they rented land from Bert McCune in Shady Nook and the following year rented land from Eric Charleson and built up a farm home on the quarter west of Oscar Silverberg's land. They farmed here in partnership until Harold married in 1935. After baching for several years Buford married Neva Jane Welsh, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Welsh, an auctioneer and farmer of the Evarts district, in March of 1932.

Neva had run a confectionary stand with her brother Joe next door to the Red Deer Theatre. She later took nurses training at the Provincial Training School in Red Deer. In 1941 Buford had a farm sale and moved to a ranch near Kamloops for a year or more. Then they moved to the States, running motels near Los Angeles and at Ellensburg, Washington, as well as a second hand business at Umatilla, Wash. Then he was manager in one of his brother's apartment buildings in Lampox.

They now live in retirement in a mobile home at Santa Paula, California. Buford and Neva have two sons, Edward Wallace, who became a teacher, is married and has a family in the States and Glen Charles, an architect, married also with a family.

Harold and his wife-to-be, filed on a half section nine miles north of Bingley in 1934. He broke some land up during the summers of 1934-35 and also built a frame house and log barn. On Nov. 5, 1935 he married Dorothy May Stickland, daughter of W. G. Stickland of the Ridgewood district. Their daughter, Charlotte Jean was born two years later.

As the country was so slow settling up and school so far away for Jean, they moved back to Ridgewood, where they bought a farm and rented a half section. During the next 31 years they carried on mixed farming, milking cows and had a good, registered pure bred Aberdeen Angus herd. In April of 1973 they sold most of their cattle and had a farm machinery sale. The land was rented out to a neighbour.

They moved to Vernon, B.C. in 1974 to a new development on the west side of Lake Okanagan where they have a nice garden and some fruit trees. They enjoy fishing in small lakes nearby. Harold curls with the senior citizens in Vernon and Dorothy takes painting lessons in the settlement.

Their daughter Jean married Richard Hodgkinson in 1957 and they both taught school at Spruce View, Pine Hill Hutterite Colony and Sylvan Lake. Jean taught Home Economics at Red Deer Central for two years, before they both went to Frobisher Bay, Baffin Island and Fort Chimo, Quebec to teach Eskimos. Jean finally got her Master of Education and Anthropology degree and now is teacher consultant for special education in Edmonton. She lives with her children Peter, Gordon and Mildred on a small acreage north of Sherwood Park.

LANGLEY, HEDLEY AND SERENA

Hedley Francis Henry Langley was born in 1869 in Dublin Barracks, Ireland. He emigrated to the U.S.A. in 1891. In 1898 he was married to Serena Woffard in Texas. They moved to the Shady Nook district in 1924 bringing with them their eight children. They farmed on the Bert McCune place then moved to Pine Hill district in 1925, and to Poplar Ridge in 1926. In 1928 they moved to B.C., where Mrs. Langley passed away. In 1948 Mr.

Langley returned to Red Deer where he resided until his passing in 1961.

Their eldest daughter Eva married Jerry Sils in 1932 and lived in Ridgewood District until 1936 when they moved to Spokane with their five children.

Their son Albert is now a resident of California, Henry of Idaho, now deceased, Arthur of B.C., Margaret Soley of Red Deer, George of Texas, Noel of Rocky Mountain House, and a daughter Mabel Boyden lived in Louisiana until her death in 1960.

LANGTON, T. O.

Thomas Oliver Langton and family came to the N.W. ¼ 7-38-28-4 in 1922.

They bought this farm from a Mr. Anquetil. There were three children, George, Betty and Ben. The Langton youngsters were all in the Air Force during the war. George was killed overseas. In 1935 they moved to a farm southwest of Sylvan Lake, later moving to Calgary where all the family live at present. Mrs. Langton is eighty-one (1976).

DAVID WALTER LARRATT

Hester Ring Davidson was born in England in 1884 and had an excellent education. She came to Canada and taught school in the Gordon school district, west of Innisfail, prior to the first World War. In 1914-15 Miss Davidson taught in the Central School, Red Deer, where many of her students still remember her with deep affection. She gave of herself in the simplest and kindest of ways. After a trip home to visit her family in England, she returned and married Walter Larratt of Innisfail, who was a widower with three children. They lived on a farm known as "The Maples" about two miles south east of the town.

On October 3, 1917 David Walter Larratt was born but sadly his mother died when he was only three weeks old. By December 1, he joined the John C. Moseley family of Red Deer, where he remained until he married and had a home of his own.

David was a very sunny baby — he always wakened with a smile. This was characteristic of him throughout his lifetime. He was never a horse lover but from early childhood had a dog. His first was Laddie, a well bred fox-terrier, and his last was King, a beautiful lab. He attended the Red Deer schools but unfortunately was not able to attend university because of lack of money during the depression. His mother won a British Empire award in mathematics and he seemed to have inherited some of her ability for he revelled in math and science and became a prolific reader. With his energetic approach to life he was never without a job, starting with a paper route, through trucks, aeroplanes, machinery and farming. He enjoyed sports and had a good physique. As a family they participated in swimming, canoeing and curling. Life to him was always a challenge and because of his capacity for hard work, often the affectionate, sensitive, generous side of his nature was overlooked. Many found him to be a TRUE friend. David was endowed with alertness, imagination and vision, so that things were done the "fast" way. On the other hand, no detail was too small. He lived in the ever-present NOW.

In the fall of 1939, he married Lavone Soderquist of the Shady Nook district and they lived in Red Deer until he joined the Royal Canadian Air Force, as a pilot. After



Wedding picture of David and Lavone Larratt.

discharge, he did considerable speculating in farm land, before settling in the Balmoral area, east of Red Deer. Later (1961) they built outbuildings on the Soderquist home quarter and in 1962-63 built a lovely home in Shady Nook, SW 9-38-28-4. Lavone deserved the brand new home for she had been uprooted several times after she had worked hard cleaning and painting with never a complaint. She delighted herself with baking, sewing and gardening, wherever she lived. She was an excellent cook and housekeeper and lived solely for David and her family.

Although David had no experience in farming, he did well. He also was successful with his dealings in oil. These were happy days for them all.

Early Easter morning, March 29, 1964, their home was completely destroyed by fire and before he could escape, David was overcome. Loree fortunately was in Edmonton with friends over the holiday — Lavone, Stan and Larry were able to get out of the inferno unharmed. The cause of the fire was never determined. The funeral service was held from the Eventide Chapel, Tuesday, March 31, with burial in the Red Deer cemetery. He was a member of the Masonic Lodge Number 29, a member of the Keystone Chapter No. 12, a member of Preceptory Number 46, a member of the Alazar Temple and past president of the Red Deer Shrine Club. He was also at

one time the local president of the Red Deer Farmers Union.

Their family consisted of three sons who are now married, and one daughter. **Richard David**, the oldest, was born June 10, 1940 and is at present living in Victoria, British Columbia. In 1965 he was awarded a \$2,400 scholarship to pursue graduate studies toward his Master's degree in Mathematics in the faculty of Graduate Studies at Dalhousie University, and in 1966 was awarded a \$3,000 scholarship to study theoretical physics under the theoretical physics group at Dalhousie University, Halifax, the study to lead to a Ph.D. in theoretical physics.

Stanley Morris was born July 6, 1945. He worked on the farm with his Dad while still in school and until his father's death. Later, he worked in the oilfields. During 1976, he built a new house on the old site, SW 9-38-28-4.

Larry Brian was born April 4, 1952 and is now living in "The Pines" in Red Deer. He is a heavy duty mechanic.

Loree Mary was born November 14, 1954. After attending the Red Deer schools, she took the honors science course at the University of Alberta and achieved the top marks in biochemistry for the four years, thereby receiving The Society of Chemical Industry Merit Award in Biochemistry. At present she is attending the University of Alberta in the faculty of Medicine. For the past few years, Lavone has been living in Victoria, British Columbia.

Mr. R. L. Whitney, principal of the Red Deer High School, and later of Lindsay Thurber Composite High School, retired and was on a trip to Australia when he received word of the tragic death of David. In a letter to the family Mr. Whitney summed up his feeling this way ". . . I was always very fond of Dave and very proud of the way he met life. He was never afraid of any situation and could always face it no matter how hard . . . while he lived he LIVED . . . to face life as he faced it takes a MAN."

LARSON, ROGER AND LOIS

Roger Larson was raised on a farm near Wadena, Saskatchewan. He has three brothers. His wife, Lois, was raised in Flin Flon, Manitoba and has one brother. They were married in Flin Flon and went to the Yukon Territories, where Roger was employed by the Department of National Defence. They lived in various Maintenance Camps along the Alaska Highway North of Whitehorse.

Their three children, Lionel, Craig and Lauriann were born in Whitehorse. The family moved to Red Deer after 12 years in the Yukon and lived there for 1½ years before coming to the Shady Nook District to work for Armitage Brothers.

LATAM, MEL AND MARJ — Marj Latam

Mel was born in Red Deer and in 1936 was united in marriage to the former Marjorie Gehrke, granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. Gehrke, early settlers of the Shady Nook district. In the fall of 1950 Mel and Marj bought an acreage S.W. 15-38-28-W4, then twenty-five acres.

A few years later the county took off land for road widening and left them with twenty-three acres. They did a bit of small time farming while Mel worked full time in Red Deer for F. M. Hayhoe. Mel passed away suddenly

at work in March of 1972. Being unable to carry on Marj sold the acreage and moved back into Red Deer.

LAWRENCE, DUNCAN

Duncan Laurence and his family came to Shady Nook with a group of Scottish settlers from the Hebrides. These people were housed at the Indian School. Father MacDonald leased the School from the Government for \$1.00. Laurences farmed some of the school land for four years starting in 1926.

LOGAN, LEWIS

Mr. Louis Logan bought the Sage Bannerman homestead, N.W. of 10-38-28-W4. There were four children; Bob, Jim, Dan and Matti. An old steam engine had been abandoned on this farm. The Logans restored it to running order. They sawed wood and ground grain on a custom basis. Logans rented the farm out for a few years and sold to the soldiers settlement board.

LOWE, WILLIAM AND FAMILY

In the fall of 1904, my father William Lowe and Uncle George Lowe came from England to settle on a farm nine miles west of Red Deer in the Shady Nook District. During the winter they built a house ready for mother. My brother Arthur and myself came in the spring.

We arrived in May of 1905, accompanied by grandfather Lowe who came to help with us children. Arthur was four years of age and I was two. Grandfather only stayed six weeks, as the change of climate was not good for his health, while my father's health was much improved by the change.

It was a big change for mother to come to a farm, as she had worked most of the time as a clerk in a shop in London, and after her marriage in 1899, she worked in a grocery store until shortly before coming to Canada. At first she had reservations about farm life, but eventually grew to like it. She could never handle the livestock but did very well with her garden and chickens.

We were located 1½ miles west and ¼ mile south of the Shady Nook school. The land location was — on the N.E. ¼ of the Section 31-T.37-R.28-W4.

Our nearest neighbour to the south was John Nyman, and a little farther on were the Silverbergs. East on the way to the school were the Andersons, Plummers, and Springsteins.

My uncle and father dissolved partnership after two years and we remained seven. We were haled out twice, snowed under, drowned out, and frozen out, and due to poor crops and poor luck with the livestock we moved to a farm near Amisk in the spring of 1912, where our luck took a turn for the better.

Mother and father spent a number of years in England after their retirement in 1928.

Father was born in 1875 and passed away in England in February 1954. Shortly after his death mother came to live with me until her passing in 1966 at the age of ninety-six years.

Arthur married in 1928 and has one boy and two girls. He and his wife and family have resided in the Stony Plain area since 1935.

I was married in 1927 and have two girls. I resided at Amisk until 1956, then lived five years at Wetaskiwin, before moving to Camrose in 1961.

At the organizational meeting of the Burnt Lake local of the A.F.A. on February 21, 1908, Wm. Lowe was chosen Secretary Treasurer, a post he held for two years, and chairman for an additional year, before leaving the district.

— Nellie Jones

LUTZ, JOHN

The John Lutz family moved from the Northern United States to Brant, Alberta, where they farmed for a time. In 1920 he bought S.W. 34-37-28-W4. They retired from farming in 1946 and moved to Red Deer. In 1972 they celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary. The Lutz's were blessed with nine children: Madge - Mrs. Sils; Dollie - Mrs. Lench; Dorothy - Mrs. Petersen; Marie - Mrs. Jim Blades; Evelyne - Mrs. Bert Amer; and Pete, Les, Glen, and Manly. Manly passed away in 1950. The eight surviving children were home for the 60th anniversary.

Mr. Lutz may have set some kind of a record by using a 1911 Deering binder, which he purchased in 1921 to cut the crop in 1945. It was used to cut 35 crops. Lutz was a big man, quiet, honest, talked slowly and had a dry, droll sense of humor. He drove a high-topped model T coupe - drove it slowly, as did many old timers with their first car. A group were sitting around one Sunday discussing the advisability of picking up hitch-hikers. One man remarked that he seldom passed anyone walking, to which Mr. Lutz slowly replied, "I seldom pass anyone unless they are walking."

LUTZ, PETE

Pete Lutz married Madge Plummer in 1927. They have two daughters, Dorothy and Iva. They sold the farm in 1946 and moved to Red Deer. Pete passed on in 1965. He had spent the war years in the army. Land location N. E. 4-38-28-W4.

LUTZ, GLEN AND ELSIE

Glen Lutz was born in the U.S.A. He immigrated to Canada with his parents Mr. and Mrs. John Lutz, settling in Brant, Alberta. From there they moved to the Shady Nook district in 1920. In 1935 he was united in marriage to the former Elsie Hall. They bought the quarter section at Mintlaw, 34-37-28-W4 where they lived until later purchasing N.W. ¼ 34-38-28-W4. Glen was engaged in farming until he retired in 1971 to take up residence in Red Deer.

Glen and Elsie raised six children on the farm: Wayne now of Coquitlam, B.C., Dan a resident of Red Deer, Bill a resident of the Shady Nook district, Sharon (Mrs. Culford) of Wetaskiwin, Doug of Shady Nook and Melvin, still at home.

LUTZ, WILLIAM AND MARJORIE

Bill is the third son of Glen and Elsie Lutz. He went to school at Shady Nook, River Glen and the Lindsay Thurber Composite High School. He finished part of his grade 11 and went farming with his father. On July 12, 1968 Bill married Marjorie Robertson, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James A. Robertson of Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan. Marjorie teaches grade three at Sylvan Lake.

Bill farmed for 16 years, then decided to go back to school. He took a course at the Red Deer College to complete grade 12 and went to work for the provincial government, training as a power engineer.

He was employed at the Alberta School Hospital, Red Deer, and is at present the engineer at the provincial jail in Peace River. Bill has a half section stump farm northwest of Peace River. They own and live on that portion of section 35-37-28-W4, that lies west of the river.

They have three children; Todd, Scott and Kathy.

LUTZ, DOUGLAS AND DIANNE

Douglas was born in Red Deer to Glen and Elsie Lutz. He attended the Shady Nook school and Red Deer schools. He did a bit of farming and drove a school bus for awhile.

After he finished school he worked in Fort Providence for an oil company for a few months and on his return moved to town and did roofing for Hayhoe Plumbing. In the fall of 1971 he went to work for Alco Drywall as a drywall taper, and is presently employed there.

In October of 1971 he married the former Dianne Gaetz, daughter of the former Kay Butler of Shady Nook District and the late Bill Gaetz of Poplar Ridge.

Doug and Dianne live with their two sons William Tyler and Patrick in a mobile home on the farm of Dianne's grandmother, Mrs. Kathleen Butler.

MacLOCHEAN, J. A.

Was living on the S. ½ of 11 when Dr. Thornton bought that farm in 1905.

MADAY, HENRY AND SHEILA

Henry and Sheila Maday moved to the Shady Nook District in August of 1968. Their acreage, previously owned by Jack Harvey, is located on the N.W. 38-28-13-W4. They have three children; Sandra, seven; Terry, five; and Cary, one and a half years.

Henry came to Canada from France with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. William Maday in 1949 and took up residence in the Calmar district, later moving to Edmonton. Henry came to Red Deer to work for Alberta Government Telephones as a telecommunications technician in May of 1963. There he met his wife, the former Sheila Reeves of Red Deer who was also employed with Alberta Government Telephones from 1965 to 1967. They were married in May of 1967 and resided in Red Deer for one year until moving to the Shady Nook District in August of 1968.

Sheila Reeves came to the Evarts district from Zeneta, Saskatchewan in 1949 with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Reeves. They owned and operated the store and post office at Evarts until 1969 when they retired and moved to Red Deer. Mr. Alfred Reeves passed away in April of 1971. Mrs. Jean Reeves resides in Red Deer. Sheila took seven years of her schooling at Evarts, two years at Benalto and three years in Red Deer, (the Evarts school was closed in the fall of 1960). Sheila has a sister, Mrs. Lil Wakey, who resides in Red Deer, and a brother, Allan Reeves, who resides in Edmonton.

MAYHEW, EBENEZER AND MINNIE

Ebenezer Mayhew was born in Sherbrooke, Quebec in 1847, of English parents who had come to Canada on a sailing ship.

Having grown up there he married and raised a family of two girls and three boys. He was a blacksmith by trade. His wife died, and he remarried and moved to Minnesota, where he worked at his trade for a time and ran a hotel. He moved after a few years to Donnybrook, North Dakota, where he took up a homestead.

He and his wife Minnie raised a family of four girls, Irene, Elva, Thelma, and Florence, and a boy, Griffin. The two youngest children were born there. After six years they moved again, to Grand Forks, B.C. where the two oldest girls grew up and married. After seven years Ebenezer, Minnie and the three youngest children moved to Red Deer to the Shady Nook district on N.E. 1/4 10-38-28 W4. This land was previously owned by the Soleys.



Griff, Florence, Thelma and Mother, Minnie Mayhew.

MAYHEW, GRIFFIN AND CHRISTINA

Griffin Mayhew came to the Shady Nook area in the spring of 1912 and settled on the quarter section N.E. 10-38-28-W4. This quarter section was homesteaded by the Soley family and then owned by August Gehrke, whom the Mayhew family bought it from.

Griffin Mayhew was born in Donnybrook, North Dakota, but came to Shady Nook as a boy after spending some years in Grand Forks, B.C. He received his only schooling in Grand Forks. He travelled to this area with his mother Minnie and two sisters Florence and Thelma; two other sisters had married and remained in B.C. Most of the trip was travelled by train except for a boat trip on the Kootenay Lake. His father Ebenezer Mayhew had travelled on ahead of the family.

Their first home was a house built by the Soleys. A neighbor Harold Thornton sowed their first crop in 1912 which was only about thirty-five acres. During that summer they broke up about thirty acres more by axe and grub hoe. He also recalls working on a road crew for a few days for the county to pay the taxes.

In the summer of 1912 the rails were laid on the track just behind their home on what was then called the A.C.R. line. In the fall of that year a work crew on the



Mayhew family, 1974. Back — Gerry Sylvia, Griff, Chris, Jim, Linda. Front — Daryl, Todd, and Robbie.

railway started a grass fire, which spread for some distance. A neighbor Fred Parks was put in charge of the fire fighting.

The Indian School was still in operation when the Mayhews arrived here. Indian boys used to come to swim in a dam in the creek close by.

He bought his first car in 1926, a Model T Ford, and in 1927 his first tractor a Hart Parr 12-24. Horses were still used for many years to pull some farm implements. During the winter it was impossible to get to town by car so they travelled by horse and sleigh. He also recalls driving cattle to town on foot, right through the centre of town.

The Mayhews' present home was built in 1927 by Bird Blakely and Bob Doig. The barn was built in 1934 by Joe and Dave Johansson. They also built barns for one or two other neighbors.

He recalls a terrible lightning and hail storm in 1924. It had been a very dry summer and what crops there were, were all destroyed. He also remembers a storm in 1937 which blew the roof off the Wiggins barn.

His mother passed away in June 1938; his father had passed away some years prior.

Griffin Mayhew was married on March 6, 1939 to Christina Myer of Rocky Mountain House. Their close friends and neighbors Beryl and Ted Packer stood up for them at their wedding.

In 1939 he began renting another quarter section of land owned by the Olsons, an American family. He farmed this land for about thirty years.

Mr. and Mrs. Mayhew have seven children: Jim Mayhew of Shady Nook, Mrs. Geraldine Veilleux of Pine Lake, Mrs. Sylvia Kelm of Airdrie, Mrs. Linda Motley of Red Deer and three sons at home, Robert fifteen, Daryl thirteen, and Todd twelve. They also had a daughter Beatrice born in 1944, who died of pneumonia, at the age of eight months.

Mr. Mayhew witnessed the crash of a training plane from Penhold at the Indian School quite close to the Burnt Lake Trail in 1942. While working on the land he noticed the plane with one engine burning and saw it

crash. He was one of the first to arrive on the scene. There were two people killed in the crash. He also mentions that somewhere in the mid 1940's the Cignet Elevator burned down after being struck by lightning.

Mrs. Mayhew remembers that during the war years there were many quilting bees and money was raised to buy cigarettes and send parcels to the boys overseas.

During the years while the children were young the school was often the entertainment centre. There were card parties for the adults, while the children had skating parties. Pot luck suppers and family dances were always popular; babysitters were not necessary.

Of the antics children are noted for they remember when their daughter Sylvia got her head stuck in a cream can. When all else had failed they smeared grease around the top of the can and pressed her ears down and really pulled.

In 1950 Mrs. Mayhew participated in a play the "Hobgoblin House," which travelled to Markerville, Caroline, Asplund Hall, Poplar Ridge, and the Red Deer Memorial Centre. The funds from the play were used to fix a pump at the school to make a skating rink for the children. Some other members of the play were Jim Braithwaite, Orville Gehrke, Glen Armitage, Helen Bollinger, Bert Galt, Les Oulton and Hazel Braithwaite.

The Mayhews got electric power in July 1950, and the natural gas came in the fall of 1962.

Until recent years they kept cattle, chickens, and pigs.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Mayhew are avid gardeners and enjoy the company of their family and eleven grandchildren.

MAYHEW, ALFRED JAMES (JIM) AND LINDA

Jim Mayhew was born and raised in Shady Nook. His parents are Griffin and Christina Mayhew.

He attended Shady Nook School through Grade 9 and went to high school in Red Deer. When he left high school he worked at the sheet metal trade and trained to become a journeyman sheet metal mechanic. He spent some time working in Fort McMurray, Saskatoon, and Edmonton.

On May 17, 1969, he married Linda Thiele of Calgary, a dental assistant. They moved to Edmonton where they lived for about eight months. They then moved to the Shady Nook district in February, 1970. The main reason for the move was to take over farming the Olson quarter which his father had rented from an American family for about thirty years.

They moved into an old home owned by the late Bob Ninkovich, which they rented from the Ninkovich family.

In 1971 they bought their present home quarter in partnership with their neighbor Reuben Bollinger. This quarter S.W. 2-28-38-W4 was formerly owned by Bill Lutz. Some previous owners were Hewsons and O'Neills.

They bought their present home from Orville and Ruth Gehrke and had it moved south about a mile and put on a foundation. The two story part of the house is about fifty or more years old. After doing extensive remodelling both inside and out they were finally able to move in in April, 1975.

They have three children Melanie five, Christopher four, and Jennifer two.

Jim has worked at sheet metal part time along with farming. In 1975 the Olsen quarter which they had been renting was sold to George and Donald Ninkovich.

Jim suffered a farm accident in the spring of 1975 which left him without sight in one eye. Neighbors came and seeded their crop for them.

They presently raise pigs year round as well as some chickens and turkeys in the summer. They are also very fond of gardening and the Shady Nook Community.

MAYHEW, BUD

Bud came to live with the Mayhew family in the early 1920s. He took all his formal education at Shady Nook. He was the first baseman on the school ball team when Shady Nook won the single room school section of the Lacombe ball tournament in 1937. Bud worked for a few farmers in Shady Nook before joining the navy in 1940.

Following the war, Bud transferred to the Military Intelligence branch of the services and we think that is still his occupation. He is married, has a family and lives somewhere in eastern Canada.

McALLISTER, DON AND DORIS (NEE ADAMS)

Both Don and Doris were born and raised in the Consort - Cadogan area. Don on August 23, 1922 and Doris Margaret Adams on August 4, 1930. They were married September 14, 1948, in Provost; then moved east of Consort, where they farmed four years. They had three boys in that time; Lenard Donald on July 23, 1949; Roger Dale on March 31, 1951; and Vic Samuel July 24, 1953.

They moved to Kitscoty and rented C.P.R. land in the fall of '54, where they set up a farm and milk cow operation. Bad luck hit them in the fall of '58 in the form of a serious fire, which took its toll of winter feed, corrals and buildings. Fortunately the house was saved. Helpful neighbours put up a shelter for the milk cows and they got enough feed to carry them through. 1959 brought something much better into their lives: a son Ralph Gordon, born April 19, 1959.

With a growing family of four sons and up to 120 cows to milk at a time, they worked in the Calgary area



Back Row — Len, Vic, Doris, Don, Roger and Elva. Front Row — Sheryl, Tammy and Ralph McAllister.

for twelve years. As their sons got older they took in horses for neighbours, and tackled the task of breaking them. They then decided they wanted to follow the rodeo, and went to as many as possible, gaining experience and knowledge.

Roger, the second oldest, made it his career, and clowning for a few years for bull riders. Now at the top, he has been the FCA Champion Bull Rider for 1973-74-75.

Lenard and Vic made their way on the oil rigs in the Arctic. Now all married and all living in Alberta, they make a big family at reunions!

Don and youngest son Ralph are currently employed by Armitage Brothers Farm. Doris is a busy homemaker, and an avid gardener. They are active in Moose, and Ralph is kept busy with a Teen Club.

McCUNE, CAPTAIN CHARLES EDWARD AND NESSIE

Captain McCune was born in Belfast, Ireland in 1840 and went to sea at an early age. In 1866 he married Nessie Gibson who was born in 1840 at Newtonards, County Down, Ireland. In 1883 he decided to leave the sea and immigrate to the United States. They settled at Lebanon, Missouri where the family farmed for 16 years. In 1899 the urge to move again became paramount and with two boxcar loads of belongings with them including furniture, machinery, four horses and eight cows, the family with the exception of two sons came to Red Deer.

On their arrival here, July 12, 1899 they could not find accommodation so they unloaded their livestock and lived in a C.P.R. boxcar on the siding for two weeks. The cars were then required elsewhere and in view of the fact that it was raining almost continually, they were allowed to move into the C.P.R. roundhouse for a time pending receipt of information as to whether or not they could return to the United States. When they found this could not be arranged, Mr. McCune and his four sons filed on four homesteads in the Shady Nook District and one in the Ridgewood district. The family moved there to live in a tent, but as the rain persisted living conditions were far from comfortable. They decided to build a house on Captain McCune's homestead so went by team to Calgary to get the necessary lumber, having to ford the river with the load of lumber on the return trip. This was the first frame house for miles around. By the next spring they managed to get sufficient land under cultivation to put in some crop, but with so much rain the frost came early and it all froze. By then they were so discouraged they were prepared to leave but found they could not dispose of their equipment until another year had elapsed, and by then things looked brighter.

Captain McCune and Charles Wright were instrumental in building the Shady Nook School. Besides imparting knowledge the building was used as a church and a center for social functions for many years.

Captain McCune died at his home on Feb. 10, 1922 at the age of 81. Mrs. McCune subsequently kept house for her son Charlie on the farm and then in 1930 she moved to Red Deer to live with her daughter Mrs. Lachlan Kennedy where she died at the age of 90 years.

The McCune family consisted of six sons and one daughter. William and John stayed in the United States. Oscar McCune homesteaded S.W. 20-37-28-W4th in the Ridgewood District where he lived for a few years. Nettie

married Lachlan Kennedy in 1910. They lived on Lachie's homestead in the Ridgewood District for about nine months and then moved to Red Deer where their daughter Nessie and son John were born.

McCUNE, CHARLES EDWARD AND LAURA (Son of Captain McCune)

Homesteaded N.E. 28-37-28-W4th. He married Laura Cunningham and they had three daughters, Carol, Betty and Colleen. During the 45 years he farmed in the district he served on the Shady Nook School Board. In 1944 the family moved to Kelowna, B.C. where Charlie died in 1957 at the age of 81.

McCUNE, ALFRED D. AND JENNIE

Miss Jennie Seale from Saskatchewan came as a teacher to Shady Nook in the fall of 1913 and taught for two years, after which she married Alfred McCune and they settled on his homestead. The trustees at that time were Mr. Wiggins, Mr. Anderson and Chas. McCune. She taught all grades up to and including grade eight. She boarded with Mrs. Gehrke as did many previous teachers. During the first year Carl Anderson and Naomi Johanson passed the grade 8 examinations and went on to high school in Red Deer, Naomi training for a teacher and eventually teaching at Shady Nook.

Alfred and Jennie McCune had two sons, Roland and Mervin. Roland married Ethel Packer. Al coached the baseball teams for several years and his teams held their own against Edwell, Hornhill, Ridgewood, Burnt Lake, Centerville, and Red Deer. Both boys played on the team. In the spring of 1944 they sold the farm and moved to Penticton, B.C. The boys both served in the Air Force during the war. Mrs. McCune is still enjoying good health.

McCUNE, HERBERT AND HILDA

Herbert McCune, son of Captain McCune was born in Belfast, Ireland in 1883 and brought to Lebanon, Missouri the same year. He came to Red Deer with his parents, three brothers and sister in 1899, filing on his homestead in Shady Nook in 1900.

To make pocket money he took pictures to sell. Pictures of the first Penhold Bridge are in the archives in Edmonton. He went farming on his own and about 1914 he married Margaret McCartney. They had two sons Edward Charles and Herbert Gibson. One now lives in Eastern Canada and the other in England. Margaret died in 1918. Bert then left farming and worked for Mr. McConnel and got his first class carpenter papers. Later he worked as a mechanic for a Mr. Rose, and got his first class papers as a mechanic.

In 1924 Bert married Hilda Mary Lowes, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jonathan Lowes. The Lowes family came from England when Hilda was seven years old.

In the hard thirties, Bert tried his luck in Vancouver, but had no luck at that time; so they returned to the farm at Shady Nook. They farmed there until 1952 when Braithwaites purchased the farm.

Herbert and Hilda had a daughter Mary Ada in 1925 and a son William J. L. in 1930. Mary is now Mrs. Parker and lives in Lacombe. She has one daughter, Melody. William has one son Jeffry and lives in Edmonton.



Bert, Mary, Bill and Hilda McCune.

Bert and Hilda moved to Red Deer in the spring of 1952 and Bert went back to carpentry work. He passed away September 27, 1964 at 81 years of age. Hilda McCune lives in Lacombe.

MCDONALD, MURDY J.

Murdy J. McDonald came from Ontario with his father, William, and his brother Rory. They all filed on homesteads in the Ridgewood District in 1899. Mrs. McDonald (nee Speck) was a very fine, hard working, sunny person. She was an older sister of Irene Speck Cressey. McDonalds left the farm because there was no school in Ridgewood and they moved to Calgary for a while.

The McDonalds had six children: Hazel, Tom, Ethel, Murdy, Gordon and Robert — only three of whom were born before they came to Burnt Lake to operate the Stopping House about 1907. Charlie Miller, older son of T. B. Miller of the Cheese Factory, tells of playing with Tommy, stating that he was younger than himself but older than James Miller.

The work at the stopping house was too much for Mrs. McDonald's health and they moved to Red Deer for a time before resuming farming in Ridgewood and Shady Nook districts. Eventually the family moved north to Fort Vermilion where Mr. McDonald died in 1934.

Hazel graduated from the Salvation Army Grace Hospital in Winnipeg. She nursed a number of years before joining her family in the north. She continued nursing and later met and married an English man, George Truefitt. They had a daughter and two sons. Hazel and George are living on Ganges Island, B.C.

Tom taught school. He also went north with the family. When the family returned from Fort Vermilion he made his home in McBride, B.C. where he worked for the railway. His mother made her home with Tom after Mr. McDonald's death. Tom never married. He died in 1966.

Ethel McDonald married Max Porter of Shady Nook shortly before the rest of the family went north. They lived on the Porter farm for a number of years. (S.W. 9-38-28-W4). Ethel lost her husband and is now living in Naramata, B.C.

McGIBBON AND WIFE RUBY

Mr. McGibbon was the first agent at the new U.G.G. elevator at Cygnet. They came in 1921. Ruby was the

former Ruby Dinty of Millet, Alberta. The Dinty family owned a boarding house at Millet.

They were newlyweds that spring. There was no company house to live in at that time, so they built a tarpaper shack on a little knoll in a grassy clearing. The next spring, water filled up the low ground, with only a very small area around the house not under water. They had a heck of a time. Later they were happy to move into a frame house supplied by U.G.G. That slough is on the S.W. of 16-38-28, and it overflowed across the Burnt Lake Trail to join Cygnet Creek.

One baby girl was born while they were in Shady Nook and another shortly after they left, in 1925.

McGRANDLE, LEN AND DOROTHY

McGrandles moved to the Shady Nook District (Pt. S.W.-14-38-28-4) from Red Deer three years ago. They have three children: Darren, ten; Laureen, five; and Linda, twelve. Len McGrandle is a teacher in Red Deer.

Len's grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Dan McGrandle, homesteaded nearby in Ridgewood district in 1901. His parents owned a farm in Caroline but now live in Caroline. Len grew up there, took grade twelve in Red Deer (at the "Comp.") and attended university in Calgary, (three years) and Edmonton (fourth year). He met Dorothy (nee Folkman) in 1962 in Edmonton. They were married in August of 1963. Dorothy, a Lab Technician, works part-time at Parsons Clinic.

McKINNON, WILLIAM AND EDNA

Mr. and Mrs. William J. McKinnon came to their acreage located between Cygnet creek and the Burnt Lake Trail (N.E. 9-38-28-W4) in 1949, and lived there until their retirement to Red Deer in 1965. Bill McKinnon was born in Ontario, and came west to work with the C.P.R. In 1915 he married Edna Saunders of Clearwater, Manitoba and they made their first home at Namaka, Alberta, where he was the C.P.R. station agent. Subsequently he was agent in Prelate, Saskatchewan, Barons, Alberta, and Eckville, Alberta. After an early retirement from the C.P.R. he bought a ranch at Rimbey where he raised Black Angus cattle.

There were three sons in the family, Ross, Walter and Jim, none of whom lived in the Shady Nook area. They were all living in the Red Deer district when the McKinnons decided to sell the ranch and relocate nearer to their family and in an area where they could farm a little less strenuously. Their search for a suitable place led them to the Shady Nook district, and to the acreage where they lived for sixteen pleasant years.

They enjoyed the community life, school picnics in the spring being one of the highlights, and although their life there was far removed from pioneering days, they were interested in the history of the area, and the stories told by those families who had helped to build the community. Mrs. McKinnon was active for a number of years in a project of assistance to Indians on various Alberta reserves, and on many occasions entertained their leaders in her home, and visited with them on the reserve.

When ill health forced them to give up their home in Red Deer they became residents of the Red Deer Nursing Home. Bill McKinnon passed away on April 15, 1975 at the age of 85. He was predeceased by one son, Walter, who died in a glider accident in 1970, and survived by his

wife and two sons Ross, who has been an employee of Central Alberta Dairy Pool for thirty years in Red Deer, and Jim who now resides at Nanoose Bay, Vancouver Island. There are nine grandchildren and eleven great-grandchildren.

At this time, (November 1976), Mrs. McKinnon still resides in the Red Deer Nursing Home. When asked about her memories of life in the Shady Nook area, she speaks with pleasure of the good neighbours of the district, of the children who grew up there and went on to make good lives for themselves but still remember to call in or drop a line to cheer an old lady who is now an invalid. Other pleasant memories are of wild berry picking along the rugged banks of the little creek that flowed through their acreage. Saskatoons, black currants, raspberries, strawberries, chokecherries and even the lowly gooseberries grew in abundance in good years, much as they must have done for centuries before the settlers came to tame and build up the area. Wild birds nested and sang in the ravines, and a colony of beavers built a small dam, flooding a section of the creek bed to make a small lake where grandchildren played and learned wilderness lore in this small area, so close to a bustling young city.

McLELLAN, ANGUS AND FLORENCE

Angus McLellan, a World War I veteran, came to the Shady Nook district in 1927, and settled on the N.E. quarter of 16-37-28-W4 meridian. A native of Scotland, he saw four years of service in the war. Near the end of the war he was wounded and spent a year in the hospital. He had never done any farming, except for working for a time on a farm upon arriving from Scotland.

He was married in 1929 to Florence Mayhew who had been in the Shady Nook district since 1913. They raised a family of two boys, Donald and John, and one girl, Irene. The children attended Shady Nook School.

During World War II Angus again went into the army where he remained for five and a half years with the veterans guard, after which he returned to farming. The family had remained on the farm. However after getting hail twice in one year, he got work at the Penhold Airport where he remained for five years, having sold the farm and bought a home in Red Deer. He got work as a Commissionaire in the City, but retired in 1969.

McNAMEE, CALVIN LOCKSLEY AND CLARICE EDITH

Calvin L. was born April, 1931, in Clarendon, Jamaica, West Indies, to George and Ida McNamee. He lived there until October 9, 1951, then came to Toronto, Ontario. After a few months in Canada, he joined the Royal Canadian Air Force, where he served until March, 1953. From there he found employment with the Northern Electric Company. This telephone work has been his career ever since. He stayed with Northern Electric Company until July, 1958.

Clarice E. (nee Petrie) was born July, 1937, in London, Ontario, living in Stratford, Ontario for four years, then moving to Niagara Falls, Ontario. Parents are Alfred and Vera Petrie. In 1954, she left for Toronto to seek employment; was hired by Northern Electric Company. In August, 1954 she met Calvin and in July, 1955 they were married in Toronto, Ontario. Two

daughters were born; Deborah Louise in March, 1956 and Brenda Charlene in June, 1957.

In April, 1958 Calvin was transferred to Calgary and was followed there by his wife and daughters in June. By this time Calvin realized he did not want to be travelling all over the country leaving his family behind, so he left Northern Electric Co. to join Alberta Government Telephones, where he is still employed.

In April, 1959 a son, Graham Theodore (Ted) was born. The decision to stay in Alberta has never been regretted. October, 1965 saw the family transferred to Red Deer. At present they are residing at S.E. 15-38-28-4, where they have been for 3½ years. Daughter Brenda is now married to Lorne Archibald and living in Prince George, B.C. Deborah is in Red Deer, employed by the Treasury Branch. Two sons remain at home.

The family has never farmed as such, but enjoy "hobby animals," such as chickens, ducks, geese and pigeons - and they have had horses, and holstein cows.

MERRIAM, FRED

Fred homesteaded the S.E. of 20-37-28-W.4 in 1889. Fred was the overseer for the Statute of Labour District. The Statute of Labour District of the early days was somewhat similar to our present Local Improvement Districts. The overseer was appointed by the Federal Government in the days before the Western Territories were formed into the provinces.

J. Merriam (q.v.) and Fred were brothers. We don't know how long he lived here; there was no house on the farm when Strimboldh came to live there in 1911.

MERRIAM, J.

Filed for a homestead on the S.W. of 32-37-28-W.4 on March 22 of 1894. He rented it to a man named Ross for a few years, before selling to John Nyman in 1910.

MOORE, JACK (N.W. ¼ 22-38-28-W4th)

I first went to Shady Nook in the fall of 1928 to work for Byron Raymer. I stayed the winter until the end of April when I moved to Poplar Ridge for the summer. I was at a sale on this place with Mr. Raymer the last week of March as McBlanes were selling out and moving to town. Mr. Raymer had bought this quarter. Little did I think that 19 years later I would buy this quarter from him after serving six years in the armed forces and becoming eligible for a V.L.A. Loan.

In 1929, about 57 acres were broken on it and in the ensuing years Mr. Raymer cleared the balance all but a few acres just west and south of our house. I have been told by Mrs. Bertha Doeg that N.W. 22 and S.W. 22 were homesteaded probably at the turn of the century by a father and son by the name of Rich. McBlanes bought N.W. 22 around 1911 or 12, and stayed till the spring of 1929. From that time Mr. Raymer farmed it mostly, and rented some. I bought it in 1948. We have lived here ever since.

I was married in Reading, England in 1945 and we have two children. Alan is a helicopter pilot and is stationed at C.F.B. Shearwater in Dartmouth, N.S. Elaine married an army Sergeant and lives at C.F.B. Lahr, Germany.

— (Jack Moore)

MOORE, BARTLETT AND LAURA

Bartlett was raised in Rupert, Quebec. He came to Calgary in 1942 where he joined the navy. He served at Esquimalt for the duration of the war. After the war he came back to the Red Deer - Sylvan Lake area and followed his trade as a carpenter. In 1949 he purchased 14-28-38-W of 4 which was the property belonging to the Indian School.

Laura Falk was born in Bashaw. At the age of six she moved to Cloverdale, B.C. with her parents. She returned to Edmonton in 1941 where she worked for a few years before making her home in Red Deer. She met Bartlett in Red Deer and they were married in the fall of 1950.

As well as carpentry, Mr. Moore farmed the land and raised a few pigs and cattle. He is now retired and the land is rented out.

Mr. and Mrs. Moore have three children. Douglas was married in 1972 and has one son, Scott; he lives and works in Red Deer. Donna also resides and works in Red Deer. Marilyn, Mrs. Collin Klatt, married 1975 and is living in Edmonton.

Bartlett and Laura are living at the farm and both enjoy good health.

MOORE, STIRLING AND EVELYN

Stirling and Evelyn came from Rimbeay to the Indian School S.W. of 14 in 1949. Evelyn was formerly Evelyn Bond of High River. Moores kept a large flock of broiler chickens for a few years, then switched to laying hens. They have two daughters; Jean, born in 1943 and Phyllis, born in 1949. Moores are retired and live in Red Deer.

MORRISON, MALCOLM AND ANNABELLA

Malcolm and Annabella Morrison immigrated to Canada from the Hebrides of Scotland in the late summer of 1923. They came with one of several groups and were to be settled in various parts of Canada. One group which the Morrisons were with came to the old Industrial School west of Red Deer, known as the Indian School. Nine small cottages had been built to accommodate these people until they found jobs or were able to buy farmland. Later, several of these families moved to Clandonald and are still in that area. These cottages were along the Burnt Lake Trail, where Bart Moore lives now, but have since disappeared.

The Morrisons were not able to find a farm at that time and went back to Calgary and worked for the Pat Burns Company until the spring of 1924. They then returned and bought a farm, which is still known as Morrisons'. Over the years, he managed to clear this quarter (N.W. of 10) mostly by cutting down the trees with an axe, as only about 40 acres were broken. The house on the farm was in poor repair at the time. One inside wall had been sawed out and it had been used as a gathering place for parties and dances. It had been left open and for some time several horses had found shelter in it. After cleaning the place up and doing some repairing, they moved in. They found the wall that had been sawed out and put it back in place.

That night about midnight, there started up a great commotion in this wall; after taking off a board, several cats ran out and disappeared into the night.

The house had to be moved twice after that because of water in the cellar, and a third time where it still stands beside the Burnt Lake Trail, known as Bernard Geb-



Mr. and Mrs. Malcolm Morrison sitting. Isobel, Donald, Malcolm Jr., Peter and Dene standing, 1942.

bink's. They had five children: the oldest, Peter, served in the Armed Forces for five years (three of them overseas) and then was employed by Gulf of Canada; he now resides in Ponoka. Don is farming on the original farm. The two girls, Isobel and Dene, are married and live in Calgary. Malcolm is employed with Alberta Highway Department and lives in Edmonton.

Mr. Morrison served in the first World War in the Navy, with the Merchant Marine. On two occasions, the ship he was on was torpedoed but managed to survive. Mr. Morrison joined the Armed Forces in 1939 and later served overseas for two years. After his discharge from the Forces, he worked with the Liquor Control Board until retirement. He then worked with the Canadian Corps of Commissionaires for a short time, and passed away in 1967. Mrs. Morrison passed away after a short illness in 1971.

An interesting incident happened in the spring of 1926. Mr. Morrison was away one day and Mrs. Morrison was home with Pete, about one year old. She was carrying Don (who wasn't born yet), when a fire started in the chimney. Not being able to climb up to the fire, she decided to go for help. She picked Pete up in her arms, closed all the doors and started to run over to Byron Raymer's. Mr. Raymer had noticed the smoke and saw her coming, so he quickly started for the house. Not having much water handy, the first thing he noticed was the swill pail and he threw the contents on the burning chimney and then managed to stop the fire. Mr. Raymer always said it wasn't him that saved the house, but the fact that the doors had all been closed, stopping the draft. That was one time when a neighbor in need was a neighbor indeed!

MORRISON, DON AND NADINE

Born in Red Deer in June, 1926, Don has spent his entire life on the farm. At the age of three, he had quite a serious eye injury. While playing with a paring knife, it slipped and the knife cut across the pupil of the left eye. After treatment in Red Deer and Calgary the eye was saved but vision was lost. Don received his schooling at Shady Nook to grade ten, and then began farming. In 1950, he married Nadine Haluschak. Miss Haluschak had taught school in the area at several schools including



Don and Nadine Morrison's family. L-R — Michael, Carole, Margaret, Daryl, Ross, Pat.

Poplar Ridge, Niobe, and River Glen. She originally came from Vilna, Alberta.

The Morrisons have six children, four boys and two girls. Pat and Daryl, the oldest of the children, are married and live in Red Deer. Pat married Sandy Kletcho of Red Deer and works with Haliburton of Canada. Daryl, the younger of the two, married Brenda Morrow of Red Deer and is employed by Canadian Pacific Railways. They have recently become proud parents of a girl, Carrie. Margaret, the oldest girl of the Morrison family, graduated as a registered nurse and is working at the Foothills Hospital. Michael is in his second year of agriculture at the University of Alberta. Carole has completed grade twelve and plans to enter college next term. Ross is in grade four and attending St. Martin de Porres school in Red Deer.

Mrs. Morrison returned to the teaching profession in 1964 and taught at Montfort School in Red Deer for seven years and since then has been teaching at St. Martin de Porres School. Pat and Daryl and Michael were all quite active in the Red Deer 4-H Beef Club for a number of years, never getting any top prizes but getting a lot of worthwhile experience from it. Don was one of the original members of the Shady Nook Sodbusters who entertained at many social evenings and played for many dances in the area.

MORTENSEN, KURT AND BARBARA

Our family consists of Barbara and Kurt Mortensen and their daughter by Kurt's first marriage, Marianne. Barbara was born Barbara Frances Jones on November 15, 1945 in Winnipeg, Manitoba. Kurt was born Kurt Flemming Mortensen on May 1, 1944 in Asminderod, Denmark.

Marianne was born Marianne Skovgard Mortensen on July 31, 1964 in Esbonderup, Denmark. They "joined forces" on December 19, 1975 when Kurt and Barbara were married in Red Deer.

The month before, they had chosen to purchase 17.3 acres in the Shady Nook Community to call their home.

It was one of their happiest decisions as they enjoy their home and "acreage living" immensely.

As for their "history" before this time, we must trace their paths separately. Barbara lived with her parents in a small town in Manitoba called Boissevain until she was in Grade three. Then she travelled with her parents to the U.S.A. where she spent the next five years residing in the states of Florida, Texas, Oregon and Washington until she was in Grade eight. At this time she returned with her family to Manitoba and completed Grades 8-10 in the towns of The Pas in the north and Boissevain in the south.

Her father decided that Alberta was the "land of promise", so the family moved to Calgary, where she completed Grades 11 and 12 at William Aberhart High School. Upon graduation she entered the University of Alberta and graduated in 1967 with a B.Sc. H.Ec. (Bachelor degree in Household Economics). She returned to receive her B.Ed (Bachelor of Education) in 1969. She then taught school at Fort Macleod from 1970-73, teaching in the area of foods and nutrition to students from Grades 7-12.

A change of scene then deemed itself necessary for stimulation and she decided to try the area of adult education, so she joined Alberta Agriculture's extension service and worked as a District Home Economist for four months in Lethbridge and three years in Red Deer. In September of 1976 she changed careers again and went back to teaching. This time she taught grades 10 to 12 in the area of clothing and textiles at Red Deer's Lindsay Thurber Composite High School. Here she is presently employed but will be taking a leave of absence for one and a half years in March 1977, as she is expecting a baby in May and intends to stay home to enjoy the baby and the acreage.

Kurt lived with his parents in Fredensborg, Denmark until he was 18. After high school graduation, he took his apprenticeship in mechanics for four and a half years, and subsequently leased a service station in Helsingor for two years. Itchy feet and his keen adventurous spirit brought him to Canada in April of 1969, where he ended up in Fort McMurray for one year, and then he moved to Calgary for two years, all the time employed as a heavy duty mechanic. He then moved to Grande Cache and worked as a mechanic for the coal strip mine for one and a half years.

In 1973, the spirit of adventure called again as opportunity raised its golden head, and he moved to the Yukon, first to Clinton Creek with asbestos mining and then to Dawson City with a gold mining operation. Upon freeze-up in 1974, he went south to Vancouver, Las Vegas and Mexico to enjoy a needed holiday. In January of 1975 he decided to move to Red Deer, after meeting Barbara on the ski slopes. Here he worked for R. Angus Ltd. until just recently, when in November of 1976 he joined Imperial Oil's northern operation, working out of Inuvik, N.W.T.

MUMFORD, GEORGE AND EDITH

George Mumford was the son of James and Gertrude Mumford and brother of Dorothy, Nancy, James, Winnifred, Marjory, and Edith of Foam Lake, Saskatchewan.



Double wedding, June 9, 1945, Myrtle and Art Grasser, George and Edith Mumford.

George married the former Edith Bergquist in 1945, the daughter of Magnus and Elline Bergquist and sister of Eugene, Alice, Clifford, Victor, Myrtle, Sigrid and Einar of Minton, Saskatchewan.

Magnus Bergquist lived six years at the George Mumford farm after being predeceased by his wife.

James Mumford lived the latter years of his life at the Eugene Bergquist home after being predeceased by his wife.

George worked the first year here with the Bergquist brothers who farmed the Eric Charlson land.

The S.E. ¼ of 30-37-28-4 was homesteaded by the two Jackson brothers, who also farmed the John Silverberg Sr. land to the north beside it. They built their house half on each quarter and batched together. They sold one quarter to William Bond. The Bonds, in 1894, sold to T. Clausen, who in turn sold to Fred and Hulda Blain, who in turn sold to George Mumford in 1945.

The Mumfords write, "We have good neighbors and have worked side by side with them through all the vicissitudes of life. We are pleased to have had the opportunity of serving them in a small capacity and are proud to call them friends."

NEWTON, JOHN — by Lila M. (Newton) Nelson

My father came from the north of England where his father was a cloth merchant and importer. My mother, who died in 1910, was Canadian for some generations back. Her father was of German extraction and spent most of his life in the field of education. He was principal of several colleges and served in that capacity longest, at the Belleville Business College. It was in Belleville, Ont. where my mother spent most of her teenage years. She, herself, went to college in Simcoe, Ont. where she lived with an aunt, her mother's sister.

Grandpa Swayze was also a teacher of mathematics and a master of penmanship. His pen and ink sketches are truly works of art.

Grandma Swayze's parentage was a mixture of Welsh and Pennsylvania Dutch if you can feature such a combination. At least it produced some exceptionally talented singers!

We moved into the Shady Nook district in the spring of 1917; we, the Newton family, consisting of our father,

my brother and myself, were not entirely strangers there. We had lived, for the past two years, in the Poplar Ridge district, one mile north of Dave Hall's corner and during that time we had associated more or less with some of the Shady Nook residents and I, at least, had been to a picnic at Burnt Lake and had also attended several local dances and social affairs, and in so doing had become acquainted with a number of young people who were my friends and associates for the next three years.

Soon after we moved onto what was then known as the Smith place (S.W. 34-37-28) we discovered that we could shorten the trip to Red Deer by three miles if we forded the Big Red and went in on the old Calgary-Edmonton trail through West Park, instead of going in on the Burnt Lake Trail and entering the town through North Red Deer. I well remember our first fording of the river. My father had made some sort of deal with a neighbor across the river that necessitated taking the wagon, so he and Claude drove the wagon down to the river and I went along on horseback, just for the ride. As we crossed the river I had the distinct sensation that the river was standing still and my horse was moving rapidly upstream, sideways. From then on we crossed the river frequently on our way to town, but as it usually fell to my lot to run errands to town, I forded the river more often than father and Claude did together.

My favorite and most used saddle horse was a mare named Maud. She was of rather unprepossessing appearance having a goose neck and a somewhat bony, severe-looking face. But when it came to speed, endurance and ease of motion, she was hard to beat. Maud had a colt every summer and when I would shut the colt in the barn and ride her away, she was impatience personified until we were home again.

Our mail came through General Delivery and the wicket closed at 7 p.m., so I often left home at 6 to go in for the mail. One evening in the late summer of '17, the sky was low and threatening as I left home and just as I reached the river, rain began to fall. I paused long enough to put on my father's raincoat which he had insisted that I take. A steady rain continued to fall the rest of the evening and when I got back to the ford about 9 p.m. the river had risen considerably. Maud plunged in with her usual disregard of everything but speed and although it was very dark I soon noticed that we were being pushed down stream by the force of the water. When we were about half way across Maud either stepped into a hole or just stumbled, anyway, her head and neck disappeared right up to the saddle horn. She came up and shook her head violently, which probably threw her off balance and down she went again. She repeated this a third time before she recovered her equilibrium and made for the shore. We came out perhaps 10 or 12 rods below the usual place but we got back on the trail, Maud shifted into high gear and we were soon home.

We had an old Hudson's Bay mail bag, a rather long, canvas affair that had been water proofed in the long ago. But that finish had long since cracked and left it something less than impervious to moisture. But it was a useful item having a stout cord that ran through metal eyelets at the top. I would loop this cord two or three times around the saddle horn and we found this bag to be indispensable for carrying the mail and small items of groceries. This particular evening my father commented

on the dampness of the mail and I said the water was higher than usual and had splashed around the bag. I made no mention of Maud's triple dousing for fear he might forbid me to use the ford, and I liked fording the river; it offered a challenge that appealed to me.

Now I get my kicks from driving my car in the city of Calgary.

During the summer of 1918, father and I were in Red Deer one Saturday evening. I had just come up one of the side streets onto Gaetz Ave. when I noticed small groups of people standing around discussing something. I asked what had happened and was told that Claude Bagley's little girl had been run over by a car. I couldn't get my mind off that accident the rest of the evening and during the night I dreamed that I was walking on the street in Red Deer when I met Claude Bagley. I asked him about the child's condition and he replied: "The doctors give her a fifty-fifty chance." Over breakfast the next morning I told father and Claude about my dream. Now, in order to finish this story I must digress for a moment. As the old timers will doubtless remember, there was open land on all sides of us at that time and our neighbors as well as ourselves took advantage of this open range on which to run their stock. Also, at that time doctors sometimes accepted livestock in lieu of cash for their services. Drs. Collison and Sanders had evidently done this and had thus accumulated a small herd of cattle. That particular summer they were running their cattle with ours and we had agreed to keep an eye on them. I don't think they came out every week but they did come out now and then to see how their cattle were doing. It so happened that they came out on Sunday, the day after the accident and, of course, father asked about the little girl. They replied: "We give her a fifty-fifty chance!" I might add that she did recover. That dream was one of only two that I have had in my entire life that had any substance of truth in them.

Along with many others we obtained permits each year to put up hay on Burnt Lake. It was about a seven mile trip to our hayfield and one summer Claude and our father arranged to stay with a bachelor by the name of Harvey Pitcher who lived only about one mile from our hay lots. This enabled them to get in a much longer day than if they had had to go home each night. We were milking only one cow that summer so I rode back and



Lila Newton on Maud.

forth to take care of her and do any other chores that had to be done. I also made up our noon lunch every morning and took it with me. I remember getting up at 4 a.m. on Monday to do the washing before I went to the hayfield. The only automation I had in those days was elbow grease and a scrub board.

I have many pleasant memories of our sojourn in Shady Nook and some of these center around my association with Mrs. Sarah Wilson and her six girls. They lived several miles south-west of us and sometimes I would ride over for a visit. I would barely have time to tie my horse to the fence when I would find myself surrounded by laughing, squealing little girls. I would get up and make my way to the house with at least three of them clinging to me. I loved this demonstration of their affection and only wished I had time to visit them oftener. It was Mrs. Wilson who taught me to crochet and I have enjoyed doing that particular type of needlework ever since. For awhile I crocheted articles that were popular at that time and sold them on a 10% commission basis at Lord's store.

It brought me in a little pin money but if I had been forced to make my living that way I would surely have starved to death.

There were many happy gatherings those days and during the war years Box Socials were a popular way of raising money for the Red Cross. I recall with pleasure the several dances I attended in one of Sveinson's big barns. It was not considered necessary then to bring liquor along in order to have a good time. I particularly enjoyed the lovely music we used to waltz to. There was the Missouri Waltz, Beautiful Ohio, Blue Danube, Merry Widow and others whose titles I have forgotten. There were other social affairs such as concerts and sometimes a play put on by home talent. These were held in the local schools — Ridgewood, Burnt Lake or Shady Nook and occasionally we would go to something being held in Crossroads school.



Claude and Lila Newton, 1918.

I could write many pages more of our experiences and friendships while living in Shady Nook, but I fear this story is already too long. I will close by saying that we had good neighbors and good times, and to those of my own age group who are still living there, may your sunset years be happy ones. Perhaps the words of the following poem would be appropriate here.

WHEN ALL THE WORLD IS YOUNG — by Charles Kingsley

When all the world is young, lad, And all the trees are green;
And every goose a swan, lad, And every lass a queen;
Then hey for boot and horse, lad, And round the world away;
Young blood must have its course, lad, And every dog his day.

When all the world is old, lad, And all the trees are brown;
And all the sport is stale, lad, And all the wheels run down;
Creep home, and take your place there, The spent and maimed among;
God grant you'll find one face there, You loved when all was young.

Last winter I did something I have wanted to do for a long time — I wrote a book. The title: "Trail of a Tenderfoot." I hope to have it for sale at outlets in Sylvan Lake and Red Deer sometime this fall.

Now for anyone who may wonder what became of our immediate family — our father, J. S. Newton, died during our first winter at Harmattan, only about seven or eight months after leaving the Shady Nook district.

Almost a year later I married R. J. Nelson. Claude never married. He stayed with farming until the late 20s when he went to the coal mining town of Alexo where he worked as assistant cook and general handyman. While there he qualified as a first aid man. He went to B.C. in 1934 where he spent the next 25 years.

Much of this time he worked as a cook for the C.M. & S. Co.; later, he worked as cook with Government crews in many parts of B.C. and on several occasions served in the double capacity of cook and first aid man when new camps were being opened up, sometimes in places that could be reached only by air. In the mid 50s Claude took a long holiday and spent some two months in England. He finally retired to Longview, about 40 miles south-west of Calgary. He travelled quite a lot in the 60s, made several trips to eastern Canada and the eastern States to visit our relatives. He went to Hawaii in 1968 and in January of 1969 he flew to New Zealand. Here, he travelled and visited until almost the end of March.

He planned on coming home by boat and had already got his ticket and had packed most of his things, gifts, etc.; and was paying a last visit to some friends when he died in his sleep, apparently from a brain hemorrhage.

As for Dick and myself, we had three children. The girls live close to me, our only son lives in Saskatchewan. We had nine grandchildren, one of whom died at the age of seventeen. Since my husband's death in November of 1970, four great-grandchildren have arrived on the scene.

NINKOVICH, BOB

Bob Ninkovich emigrated to Canada from Yugoslavia in 1927. He married the former Helen Belich in Alberta. Bob farmed on the N.E. ¼ 24-38-28 until selling it in 1948 to George and Percy Belich.

He then bought the S.W. ¼ 14-38-28-W4 from Ruby and Joe Busby, where he lived until his death.

They raised three sons, George, Donald, and Lance.

At the present time this property is being farmed by George and Donald.

NINKOVICH, GEORGE

George Ninkovich is the eldest son of Helen and Bob Ninkovich. He received his education in Red Deer and farmed with his father until 1955. He married the former Helen (Lotty) Schoch. They lived in Red Deer for several years, where George was employed as a cement finisher for B. Y. Comis Concrete until 1960, when he took up farming again.

In 1962, George and Lotty purchased the N.E. ¼ 3-38-28-W4, from Pearl and Les Oulton. They are presently living here, farming with Donald. They have three daughters, Joan, Donna, and Karen and one son, David.



George and Lotty Ninkovich on their wedding day.

NINKOVICH, DONALD

Donald Ninkovich is the second son of Helen and Bob Ninkovich. He received his education in Red Deer and farmed with his father until 1955, at which time he was employed by Layden Construction, building roads.

In 1959, Don bought a quarter section from Walter Hart. He sold this in 1962 to his Uncles, George and Per-

cy Belich. That year he started farming with his brother George on the N.E. 3-38-28-W4 where he is presently living.

NINKOVICH, LANCE

Lance Ninkovich is the youngest son of Helen and Bob Ninkovich. He received his education in Red Deer, after which he started a drywall business in the late '50s.

He married the former Beverly Schwartz of Red Deer. The family lived in Red Deer for several years, before moving onto an acreage on S.W. 14-38-28-W4 in 1967.

In 1973, Lance and Bev bought the N.W. ¼ 28-38-28-W4 and the S.W. ¼ 33-38-28-W4 from Willis Wentworth. They sold their acreage to the present owners, Len and Dorothy McGrandle.

At the present time they are living on S.W. ¼ 33-38-28-W4, farming and operating Alco Drywall in Red Deer. His hobby is raising purebred Chianina cattle.

They have three daughters, Kim, Cindy and Wendy.

NORTH, AL AND JUDY (NEE BUCKLES)

We moved onto our acreage located one half mile north of the Burnt Lake Trail (Pt. of N.W. ¼ 15, 38, 28-W 4th) straight from city life and green as granny apples. It was that dreadful winter of 1974, in February when snow was high and our spirits low as we moved our worldly possessions over it! We had no idea that a week from then a blizzard was to descend upon us and drift our road in so badly that we got four vehicles and a snow-machine stuck. We were snowed in for two weeks, but thanks to our good neighbours, we finally got out. So started the beginning of our new life.

Al settled in to a job at Merit Stores in Red Deer in the furniture sales department and is still there. He found it a slower pace after a highly demanding job at Woodward's in Kamloops, B.C., but right up his alley as he has always enjoyed selling. I attacked the job of setting up the house.

As Al was born in Swift Current, Saskatchewan, and raised on a chicken farm, his first thought was to raise Barred Rock chickens of his grandfather's strain. I was born in Edmonton and raised in Vancouver and the restful beauty of the country around us was a refreshing change from city life. Our children John Wesley, six, and Brenda Lorraine, five, express their feelings about our new life by saying "We love it, Mommy."

It has been an eventful two years. Our first animal was a goat. I found it hard to learn to milk her, but when we got our cow and had four of those things to contend with, we almost quit! Our poultry did well except for one turkey who decided to hang himself on a big nail in the barn and a chicken who got a big stick stuck through his crop. I quickly learned how to sew them up and surprisingly no scars appeared.

The experiences we've had would probably fill a small book, but for now all we can say is "it's great!" Who says city people can't adjust?

— Judy North

NYMAN, ANDREW AND KAREN

Nymans came from Sweden in 1892. Andrew came west that year to High River to work for the Bar U Ranch. The rest of the family stayed in Ottawa for a year and moved to the ranch in 1893. There were two boys and

two girls in the family in Canada. One daughter remained in Sweden. John Olaf was born June 5, 1882, Gus was born July 1887, Martha married John Silverberg, and Hanna married Ed Stokes of New Westminster, B.C. She died in 1966. The Nyman family worked on the Bar U until the spring of 1899. They then came north to Shady Nook where Andrew homesteaded the N.E. of 32-37-38-W.4. In 1906 they sold the homestead to Geo. Plummer and bought the S.E. of 32 from Dan Clauson. There is a sixty-acre lake near the east side of this quarter. The buildings that were west of the lake were built by Nyman.

Andrew died in October of 1924 at 84 years old. Karen died five weeks later at 82. They are buried in the Burnt Lake Cemetery.

Gus Nyman was a blacksmith by trade. In the early years he worked for Springbett in Red Deer. Later he established his own shop at Innisfail. He is reported to have worked at his trade in Bowden before moving to Calgary where he owned a garage for several years. He died in 1925.

NYMAN, JOHN OLAF AND ELLEN CHRISTINA

This tall strong raw-boned Swede found the big balm trees a challenge. He wrestled with them until the end of time.

John was the oldest son of Andrew and Karen Nyman and was born in Sweden on June 5, 1882. He lived in Ottawa with part of the family for a year, then moved west with them when they came in 1893 to join dad on the ranch at High River. He went to work for Hugh Brown on the Bar U ranch.

Being a slim lad of eleven years, too young to fork hay or handle cows, he was put on the wolfing crew. His job was to crawl into the den with his six shooter and kill the wolves in there. They seldom caught an old wolf at home, but when they did, John would shoot it and crawl and wiggle backwards out of the den coughing and choking from the dust and gun powder fumes. He spent six years working on that ranch and then came with the family to homestead in Shady Nook. He filed on N.W. 32-37-28-W.4.

John spent one year here before leaving the homestead in care of other members of the family. He had grown fond of the cowboy's life on the open range, so returned to High River to work for seven years at the EP ranch. He returned in the spring of 1907. Three years later he sold the homestead to George Plummer and bought S.W. of 32 in 1910. There wasn't another section around with as many big trees as there were on section 32. Nyman had built a set of log buildings on the homestead and just about the time they had the farm whipped into shape he sold out and started again. John was a master builder with logs. The large barn, granary and machine shed stand on the old farmstead today. The big trees were chopped down and hauled in for firewood.

It took six or seven men to carry the logs to the saw. They were so big they had to be turned three times before the blocks fell free.

A familiar sight on the winter roads was Nymans' covered sleigh and team of driving mules. John Nyman freighted some supplies to the West Country. He hauled cement from Red Deer for the railway bridge at Rocky Mountain House, and the steel and cement for the first



Mr. and Mrs. John Nyman.

bridge on the Medicine River, east of the Eckville corner. Like most of the early settlers of Shady Nook, John served his term of ten years on the school board.

John and Ellen, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lars Soderberg, were married on May 17, 1914. The Nymans had seven children. The twins, born in 1916, died shortly after birth. Nettie, born in 1917, is now Mrs. Bill Philips, of Edmonton. George, born in 1919 died in 1922. Andrew, born July 15, 1923 lives in Red Deer. Lawrence born in 1924, died in 1925. Another girl, Ella, born in 1930, is now Mrs. Jack Pell of Edmonton.

John resented growing old more than most men do. He said it made him feel like a fool to be no longer able to lift a full barrel of gas and set it in the wagon or change a heavy hay rack with ease. This was a man who enjoyed the simple pleasures of life. All was right with his world if he could sit with friends and dine on salt pork and a piece of raisin pie. He liked to reminisce about the interesting, carefree days of his youth spent on the open range. The cares and worries would fade away and he'd sing some of the songs the cowboys sang while punching cows for the old Bar U.

John never got around to going back to look over the scenes of his youth. The black soil stuck to his boots, as it were. He had cows and pigs to feed and hay to put up. The rest of the time he would take the axe and carry his fight to the heart of the forest to get rid of the everlasting trees. Or did he not go because he realized that fond memories are things seen through the rosy eyes of youth and should be left as they are?

After a few months of illness John passed away at 57 years of age on December 23, 1939. He was buried in the family plot at Burnt Lake to rest forever beside his little children. Ellen left the district shortly after that and in 1942 married Les Bell of Red Deer. Ellen passed away October 29, 1973 and is buried in Calgary.

NYMAN, ANDREW AND MARIE

Andy was the only surviving son of John and Ellen Nyman. He was born July 15, 1923 and took all his schooling at Shady Nook. A few months after his father's death he went to work for Bill Philips of the Eagle Hill district (west of Bowden). In February of 1941 Andy joined the Calgary Tanks Regiment; he was taken prisoner in the Dieppe Raid. Soon after being set free, Andy

married June Matheson. They were married at Lambert, Scotland on July 10, 1945.

After his return to Canada, he opened a jewellery store at Sylvan Lake in March, 1946. They had one daughter, Janet, born October 23, 1949. In 1953, they opened a second store at Rimbey and a year later they sold at Sylvan Lake and moved to Rimbey. In 1955 they moved to Red Deer and ran their jewellery store for several years. Later, the store was turned into a trophy store.

His second marriage took place in 1959 to Marie Freeman. On August 27, 1960, a son Lawrence was born. A daughter, Heather was born April 5, 1965 and then another son, Cameron was born on July 30, 1969.

They had purchased a new Hermes Engraving Machine in 1946, the first one in use in Alberta. The Nymans worked the trophy business until 1976. Andy intends to stay in the engraving business making plaques and transferring pictures to metal. He now has an electronic engraving machine, again a first, being the only one in the province. The family continues to live in Red Deer.

OKLITCH, LEO AND MARY

Leo and Mary Oklitch came here from Manitoba to S.E. 15-38-28-W4. They lived here from about 1940 to 1950. Leo ran a drag line for Pool Construction until 1948 when he went into business for himself. His brother-in-law Al McGinn ran the farm. Mary was a great lover of Jersey cows and Al was a horse man. Al was also known for his ball playing.

Leo Oklitch now lives in Edmonton.

OLAFSON, MRS. S.

Mrs. S. Olafson paid taxes on a half section in '23 and '24. The Olafson taxes were paid by Mrs. Clara Olafson for the next three years. This was probably the same person. It is not known if she lived here or just owned land in the district.

OLSON, ELIAS

Elias Olson purchased the N.W. of 2-37-28-W.4. The Olsons had one daughter. They lived in Red Deer for a year, then returned to the United States. John Wiggins farmed this quarter in the early days. Some of the Olsons owned the land until 1975 and that spring sold to George Ninkovich.

O'NEIL, BILL AND EDITH

Bill O'Neil came from Cumberland, Ontario where he was born. Edith O'Neil came from Leatherhead, Surrey, England. They were married in England on May 18, 1918. Bill had served in the army from 1915 to 1919.

They came to Canada to Red Deer in the fall of 1919, and he ran a livery barn with his brother. In the spring of 1921 they came to Shady Nook where they farmed for 10 years and had a family of three. Bernard was born in Red Deer December 20, 1921. Stanley was born at sea April 13, 1924. Mrs. O'Neil went back to England for a trip and Stanley was born on the way back. Lorraine was born in Red Deer on July 29, 1930.

Bill O'Neil had grown up on a farm in southern Manitoba from the age of 10. While they lived here Mrs. O'Neil was known as a good neighbor and a very hard worker. While in the Shady Nook district they farmed on the quarter now the residence of the Jim Mayhew family.

They went to homestead at Smith, Alberta in April 1931, carrying on mixed farming and some trapping until 1956 when Bill passed away.

OULTON, LES AND PEARL

Les Oulton came from England in 1923. His first job was working on a farm in the Beaver Flats district near Leslieville. He worked there for seven months at \$25.00 per month and when he left had \$175.00 with him. There was not much to spend money on at Beaver Flats! Les says he was probably the best mosquito bait to ever leave England. He had his fill of the bush and mosquitoes and had he had sufficient money would have returned to England. Since he could not return to England, he decided to go to the United States. His step-sister and his step-brother-in-law were looking after the Schoch farm, so Les had the opportunity to work there for a while. His first visitor was Keith Wiggins who talked him into staying for another spring. Les worked for several farmers in Shady Nook until 1933, when he married Pearl Wiggins.

Pearl was the only daughter of John and Annie Wiggins. After the wedding they took care of the Ed Wadson farm in Diamond Valley and in the spring of 1954, Les and Pearl rented the N.W. of 24-27-28-W.4 for three years. They next lived on a quarter at the east end of Burnt Lake. A few years later they were able to buy the N.E. of Section 3. They operated a mixed farm on this quarter until they sold out in 1962. They have retired to Sylvan Lake.

The Oultons have two children; Herb of Sylvan Lake born 1934, and Joyce, born 1936, (now Mrs. Ken Mitchell of Spruce Grove). Joyce has worked for the past 22 years for Canada Safeways Ltd. They have a son.



Les and Pearl Oulton.

PARK, JIM

Jim Park and his wife Susan, the former Susan Pearson of Elnora, came to run the U.G.G. elevator at Cygnet in the fall of 1940. During the summer of 1942, in July, the elevator was struck by lightning and burned to the ground.

The Parks lived in a company house near the right-of-way. After that, Jim ran the elevator at Prevo. They spent several years farming west of Blackfalds. Their son Lavern now operates the farm. Judy and Russell live in Calgary.

PARKS, FREDRICK HERMAN AND ZILLAH MAY

Fredrick Parks was born in Wahoo, Nebraska in 1872. He moved to North Dakota and married Zillah May Brown in 1900.

The wedding was quite a funny incident. At the time there was a lot of diphtheria around the area and the Browns' home was under quarantine, so the Minister couldn't come too near. While Zillah and Fred stood on the porch, the minister stood by the gate and they hollered back and forth.

Mr. and Mrs. Parks immigrated to Canada in the spring of 1900. They lived in the Waskasoo area for a short time and then moved to Shady Nook where they took out a homestead. They lived in a log cabin in this area from 1904 to 1917 when they moved back to the Waskasoo area.

They had three daughters and four sons, Fred of Edmonton, Gordon of Penticton, B.C., Norman of Saskatchewan, and Negley of Red Deer; Mrs. Phillip Gamblin (Gladys) (who passed away in 1975), Mrs. Frances Goings, formerly Mackie, of Red Deer, and the youngest, Mrs. Ona Benfeld of St. Lina, Alberta. Mrs. Zillah Park died of a heart seizure in 1934 while driving her horse team home.

Mr. Frederick Parks passed away in 1936 at the age of sixty-four.

PEARSON, FRED AND MARIA

Fred Pearson was born in the fall of 1893, his parents' first year in Alberta. He attended school at Lacombe and at Broad View Academy, Michigan. This was interrupted by World War I when he worked on the farm. His mother's death in 1918 prevented his Army induction. The Pastor, Elder Fred Johnson arranged for a young Swedish widow and her small daughter, Arvida, to keep house for them. She had come from Lincoln, Nebraska where she had a Ladies Tailoring Shop since coming from Sweden. They were under appointment to go as missionaries to China before her husband's untimely death of a ruptured appendix.

In 1926 Fred Pearson married Maria Bjurstrom in St. Paul Minnesota. Her daughter remembers they came up by train and were met by a neighbor with horse and cutter to take them to the farm.

While Fred was working hard clearing land on his section, milking, feeding cattle and threshing for neighbors, Maria made soap, crocks of sauerkraut, lingon berries, and yellow cheese. Carpentering, yes she built a cutter in the kitchen. She sewed baseball uniforms for the ball team, and taught sewing to many young girls. She enjoyed music and played the guitar and zither she had brought from Sweden. As a girl in Sweden she had



Fred and Maria Pearson in front of their home in Shady Nook.



Fred and Maria Pearson with Mrs. Bertram Bell of Centerville, 1958.

spun flax into thread; then wove fine linen and crocheted lace edgings. Young ladies of Sweden spun and wove their sheets for their Hope Chests. These linen pieces are treasured by her daughters. Maria rode her bicycle to visit neighbors for many years. Fred used a variety of equipment, from hauling water with oxen at Lacombe to farming with horses, and later with power combine. The 11 miles into Red Deer were long miles with team and sleigh, but with severe weather that was necessary even when small daughter, Lloydly, had her tonsillectomy in Dr. Nix's office and returned home after kicking over the Chloroform bottle. Fred remembered the year and specific weather conditions when the neighbors were sick and children were born. Perhaps this dated back to his mother who was a nurse in Sweden. After coming to Canada she delivered the babies of the other homesteaders.

Arvida married Mac Fisher. They now live in Loma Linda, California, where Mac is employed by the Seventh Day Adventist College. They have four children,

Marlene, Dean, Donna and Sharon, all married. Lloydly trained as a nurse at the Seventh Day Adventist College at Walla Walla, Washington. She married Ted Smith of Portland, Oregon. They have two children, a boy and girl, still at home.

Maria passed away in March 1964. Fred remarried Lorna Selund, a fellow church member. After they sold the home place to Ties Westera they moved to Lacombe where they lived until Fred's death in June 1970. Lorna still resides at Lacombe.

As I Remember Fred and Maria Pearson — by Arvida Fisher

My mother, Maria Johanson left her home in Sweden to come to America in 1905 when she was 20 years old, arriving at Hastings, Mich., to work for her multi-millionaire cousin, Emil Tyden.

After some years she moved to Lincoln, Nebraska, and took up sewing for a living, and later she met and married my father, Pastor Arvid Byurstrom in 1914. Their wedded life was very short for he died two years later of peritonitis. Eight months after his passing I was born.

Mother was grief stricken and lonely; so in 1918 she traveled by train to Edmonton, Alberta where her sister Judith and her husband Rudolph Palm lived after coming over from Sweden. I was two years old.

While visiting Aunt Judith they all went to Camp Meeting at Lacombe, Alberta. There Elder Fred Johnson tried to persuade mother that she should go and keep house for C. A. Pearson and his family near Red Deer, in the Burnt Lake district.

Mrs. Pearson had become seriously ill when Fred, their son, was taken into military service. For this reason Fred was permitted to go back home but it was too late. She did not rally and passed away in a short time.

Life on the farm was very interesting to me. To begin with Sabbath School and Church were held in the Pearson home. There were two Seventh Day Adventist families then, Pearsons, and Thomas Thompsons. As time went on and more families joined we would rotate from home to home for the services.

Families I remember coming were the Andersons from Shady Nook, John Johansons from Burnt Lake, and Bertram Bells, from Centerville. Soon the Fitchs and Carl Andersons joined us so we met in the Burnt Lake School house until Pastor Peter Rick arrived. He set to work promptly to build a church — which still stands in Burnt Lake. A new church is now in Sylvan Lake.

I recall hearing the Pearsons tell about how travelers would pass through by oxen or horses and wagons from east to west and west to east and would make the Pearson home their stopping place en route. Food and lodging were always cheerfully given for the people and their animals.

Mother kept house for the Pearson home until April 4, 1926; then Fred and Maria were married in St. Paul, Minnesota. They took me with them. We arrived back in Red Deer by train and lived in the old homestead house that year. In 1927 we moved to Fred's own farm in Shady Nook.

One night, shortly after their marriage the neighbors decided to chivaree Maria and Fred. They came around midnight. I was asleep. They were banging all kinds of iron together and hooting and yelling. I was terrified

thinking war had broken out. I cried so hard that Mother came to my room and brought me downstairs. The house was full of neighbors. Axel and Oscar Johanson seemed to be the leaders.

It seemed I never got over it for many years because I would not come anywhere near Axel, and if any of the Johansons would come up the lane toward the house I would run into the house, upstairs and crawl under the bed. I would not come out until they had gone. Oscar and Axel and their father Eric would tease me, so I just would stay away from them. They later became some of best friends, and Axel and I often sang together.

On Dec. 3, 1927, a new little person Lloyd Alberta arrived to join the Fred Pearson family.

My mother would sometimes take me with her when we went to Charlie Johansons' just east of us. Mrs. Charlie Johansons' flower gardens were always an amazement to me. I had never seen so many flowers in one garden. She would always give us hot chocolate and a piece of cake.

Fred attended school at Broadview, Chicago, Ill., and at Lacombe Alberta Industrial Academy. There he used to drive the bull, hitched to a stone-boat with a large barrel on it, to haul water from Barnett Lake to the school.

PEARSON, ROBERT AND AMY

Robert is the youngest son of Carl August and Kiren Elizabeth Persson. He was born on the home quarter on section 12-38-W.5 on September 30, 1898. He took his schooling at Burnt Lake and Broadview College in Chicago, Illinois. He worked his way through college doing student labour and mission work.

In 1923 he was united in marriage to Amy Johnson, daughter of Albert and Augusta Johnson of Ashland, Wisconsin. Robert took over that part of the family farm which was in Poplar Ridge, the west of 21-38-21-W.4 and started farming in 1926. About 1949 they bought their farm in Shady Nook, just south of the Shady Nook school and moved here in 1950. They operated a mixed farm with sheep, beef and dairy cattle, shipping milk to the condensery.

Robert and Amy had a family of three daughters and one son.



Robert Pearson family about 1961.



Carl, Fred and Robert Pearson.

Esther (Mrs. Mike Semograd) of Sicamous, B.C., has four boys and one girl.

Roberta (Mrs. Lloyd Maves) of Forestburg, passed away in 1959 and is survived by one daughter.

Francis (Mrs. Robertson) of Berrien Springs, Michigan, has one son.

Harold married Anne Kipiniak of Hazel Dell, Saskatchewan. They farm near Hazel Dell and have three daughters.

Amy's hobbies include painting and needlework and they have both been life-long supporters of the Adventist Church. They now live in semi-retirement on the farm.

POHL, BERNARD AND LOTTIE

Bernard and Lottie bought the S.W. of 14 from Stirling Moore. Pohls have two boys, Mark and Chris. Bernard works for the Provincial Government. Their hobby — a small herd of purebred Hereford cattle.

PORTER, BOB AND EDITH

Mr. and Mrs. Porter came from England in 1927. They brought with them their two sons, Bob Jr. and Max. Eric Haynes, Brian Koch and Mrs. Porter's sister also came with them.

Mr. Porter was a traveling salesman for a large company. We do not recall what line of goods or equipment he sold. It is reported that he made several trips to some of the hot climate countries of the Commonwealth, particularly India.

Bob died of a heart attack while visiting a son in Calgary in 1934. Mrs. Porter lived on the farm until 1940. She then moved to Pettawawa, Ontario. One day in 1944, while pumping a pail of water, she had a heart attack and died.

PORTER, BOB JR. AND MABEL

Bob was the son of Bob and Edith Porter. He came with his parents from England. He helped on the farm until his marriage to Mabel Hutchinson, a cousin of the Murdy McDonald family. The Porters had three sons and one daughter. They have lived in Calgary since their marriage. Bob worked for the Hudson's Bay Company. He died in 1973.

PORTER, MAX AND ETHEL

Max was a son of Bob and Edith Porter. He came with his parents from England. Ethel was a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Murdy McDonald. They were married early in 1930 and farmed one year in Shady Nook. They lived on the N.W. of 4. In the spring of 1931 they went

north with the McDonalds. Max is reported to have been a fire warden at Westlock for several years. This family had one daughter of their own and adopted two.

POWELL, BILL AND SHIRLEY

Bill Powell grew up on a ranch in the Youngstown area and came to work at Armitage Farms in March, 1968. In August, 1968, he married Shirley Adams, also from the Youngstown area. Shirley came to Red Deer in May, 1968 and lived at Mrs. Martin Armitage's until her marriage to Bill. She was employed by the Red Deer Co-op store until Maggie Armitage met with a tragic accident in December, 1969. Shirley then left the Co-op to look after the four Armitage children and cook for silage and harvest men. This kept her very busy but brought her and Bill much pleasure.

On July 4, 1971 their daughter Shelli Wannett was born in Red Deer. In July, 1973 they left Shady Nook and went to work on the Cross Bar Ranch at Consort. A son Calvin James was born November 11 of that year. In 1975, Bill and Shirley moved back to Youngstown where they built a new home and are now busy ranching.



Bill, Shirley, Shelli and Colin Powell, 1976.

PLUMMER, GEORGE

George Plummer left Wilsonville, Nebraska, U.S.A., where he and his wife had been running a store, to come to Shady Nook in 1906. They bought the N. ½ 32-37-28-4 from John and Andrew Nyman. There were two girls in the family. Vesta (Mrs. John Soderberg) born 1906 and Madge (Mrs. Pete Lutz), in 1908.

He was a hard worker, up at 4 a.m. He said he seldom slept after 2:00 and used the time to plan his work. Plummer was a good stockman, had good stock and was successful as a farmer. He gave strong support to community affairs, was well liked and honest, and enjoyed hunting.

He taught boxing and wrestling for the Ridgewood athletic club, and was a great boxing fan. He and two other men from Red Deer went to see Jack Dempsey fight at Shelby, Montana.

It was with surprise and sadness that the district found that Mr. Plummer had been drowned near the A.C.R. bridge one stormy night in June, 1923.

Mrs. Plummer raised her family here, spent the rest of a long life in Shady Nook and went to her final rest in 1965 at 90 years, 11 months.



Mrs. Plummer.

RAYMER, BYRON (BARNEY) AND JULIA

No information about Byron's childhood is known other than he left the family home in Holderm County, Ontario at 14 years of age. He worked at a variety of jobs in Ontario until he was 21. He became interested in coming to Alberta and answered a couple of ads placed in some eastern papers by a western real estate firm. He arrived in 1900, took one quick look at the E ½ of 9-38-28-4 he knew it was the place for him.

It wasn't a big job for him to move all his belongings from Red Deer to the farm. He packed them on his back and carried an axe and shovel.

The first team that Byron owned consisted of one ox and one horse. It was not an unusual sight at that time. Oxen were cheap to own and feed and the horse was used to work and ride. I would guess that Byron's horse was a bronco. We are told that he usually walked to town and carried the groceries home on his back because it was faster than driving the team. Byron built a small shack with a single ply of lumber lined with cardboard.

He was a fairly large man, who thrived on long hours of hard work and it always puzzled many people how he could stand the very cold weather with the few clothes he wore.

He made progress quite rapidly on his farm. In 1904 he purchased an International single cylinder 20 horsepower stationary engine and a threshing machine. The engine did not have quite enough power to run the threshing machine so he put a plate on the piston head to increase the compression and then it did the job fairly well. Raymer custom threshed all along the way from Shady Nook to Evarts and Benalto.



Byron and Julia Raymer.



Byron Raymer shopping in Co-op store about 1958.

During his batching days he made a lot of stew; there was always some on the stove. He never locked the door and on many occasions when he came in for a meal the stew would be gone and a note left thanking him for his hospitality to a weary passer by.

Most of the land on the home farm was broke with oxen. He often told us about the team. Every hot day, if the heel flies were bad, the sons of — would take off for the slough and stay there and stay and stay.

Mr. Raymer had a pretty fair temper and was known as the most proficient swearer for many miles around. Long strings of swear words would tumble forth in verse and rhyme. He'd call on all the powers that be from above and below the earth to bring them out of the slough and sure enough, after an hour or two or three the damnable ponderous oxen came. Usually by then it would be time for Byron to go home and do the chores.

In 1912 Byron married Mrs. Jervais Soley (nee Julia Biswanger). She brought 4 children with her to fill the little home. More room was needed; so a lean-to was added to the shack. The children were Bill, John, Len and Edith.

Byron and Julia had two children, Victor in 1914 and Bertha, now Mrs. Bob Galt, born in 1916.

Several farmers while trying to become established borrowed and rented machinery from the Raymers.

One summer a large barn was built. The loft was filled with hay. The next year hay was scarce and high priced. The hay in the loft sold for more than enough money to pay for the barn. This was a mixed farm; 15 head of cows were milked, 100 head or more beef cattle kept and usually there were about 150 pigs. In 1922 a Hart Parr tractor was put to work on this farm. By 1930 the Raymer farm occupied nine quarter sections. Two six horse teams were used along with the tractor.

Mrs. Raymer ran the poultry enterprise; all kinds of poultry were raised. Byron was the gardener. He grew a large garden and looked after it himself. It was his Sunday recreation project. He did not allow anyone to mess around in it except to harvest the produce. Bill Soley farmed the homestead of his father and grandfather, but spent the winters in the Raymer home. In 1928 he sold one quarter to Mrs. Raymer and one to Byron.

In 1919 a big new house was built on the Raymer farm. It was a good thing there was lots of room for it was to be full of young people as long as Mrs. Raymer lived. Julia was born into a large family and with her marriage to Soley, she had gained many relatives, most of whom liked to come for long visits with the Raymers. There were usually 14 or 15 people in this house including family, friends, relatives and hired help.

Some of those we can recall having stayed there were the Frizzel boys, (Cliff, Crogan and Dean), Dan Williams, the Soley boys, and the Dancocks girls, (Hazel, Phyllis and Audrey). Some years, half of the Shady Nook ball and hockey team came from the Raymer farm.

Raymer used to enjoy the annual school board meetings, especially in the early years. Heated exchanges would break out and some of the ratepayers were ready to go out into the yard and brawl their way to a solution. Certain factions at that time disagreed with each other for the sake of disagreeing and he reports that the day of the meeting was always a long and interesting afternoon. After about 1920 the school meetings weren't as interesting as in the early years. Perhaps there was more money available and less problems for the school.

The Raymer family donated generously to the community efforts and even though Byron had a quick temper, he recovered from it just as fast. It did surprise many people to find out that Byron was a very kind and generous man. He harboured many guests for long periods of time and never once asked them to do any

work. If they chose to help, he was grateful. The visitors all helped Julia and were enjoyed and appreciated by her. During the hard times when work was so scarce, some of the young people in the district used to go to town and buy treats and tobacco, charging them up to Byron and he always paid and never said a word of protest.

It was believed that he had a very hard time in his childhood and as long as he lived he was ready to help the unfortunate and those unable or unwilling to help themselves. He provided a winter home to some whose own house was too cold to live in. This home had the first radio in Shady Nook and often the only entertainment was to tune in the C.F.C.N. old timers' program, roll back the rugs and everybody dance; forty or fifty people would join in.

The war years of 39-45 caused many changes on this farm. Help was scarce, some of the land was sold, the number of livestock reduced. Bertha was at home for many years and did a lot of hard work to keep the farm going.

Mrs. Raymer passed away in 1950 at 73 years of age. Byron continued on for a few years with the help of Bertha and her husband and in 1959 passed on at 82 years.

RAYMER, VICTOR

Vic was the only son of Byron and Julia Raymer. He was born in 1914 and went to school in Shady Nook and also for two years at Red Deer High.

Vic was a baseball and hockey player for Shady Nook for several years. He worked at home farming with his father until he was 23 years old.

In 1937 he married Lucy, the oldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Jones. They lived on the SW of 15. They had one daughter Barbara, now Mrs. Merkley of Vancouver.

In 1940 he joined the 78th field battery. After the war he spent 18 months on the farm, two years working in a bakery and then joined the Edmonton City Maintenance staff.

His second marriage was to Lou Intivert. They have one son Cliff and one daughter, Carol. He has been married for a third time and has one son from the last marriage.

Raymer's are retired now. They raise purebred Shelties. Vic is a qualified dog show judge and their home is still in Edmonton.

ROBINETTE, AVI

Avi Robinette was born on November 26, 1876, in Hartville, Missouri. He was the eighth child of a family of twelve. His father had served as a Captain in the civil war for the Union Army and returned to Hartville to farm and raise his family. His father died with pneumonia when Avi was seven years old; so he was raised by his mother and older brothers. At 27, Mr. Robinette married Willie Eoday and they farmed part of the family farm. A daughter, Kermit was born to them on December 23, 1905, and a son, Bernise in 1907. Mrs. Robinette was never completely well after 1907, and passed away on January 9, 1910, leaving Avi with two small children to raise. His mother moved in for several years until the children were well into school.

He then broke ties with his family and moved west and north living in Washington and Montana, working



Avi Robinette and young admirer.

herding cattle and sheep to support himself and his two children. In 1920, Avi moved north into Canada to the Shady Nook area.

At times he would recall stories of his grandmother who visited his family when he was a young boy. He would sit by her knee, while she told stories and sang songs as she smoked her corn cob pipe. He also told of Jessie James and his men stopping at their farm to water their horses. This was a great event in a young boy's life as Jessie James was a very famous man in those days.

As a young man, Avi spent several months with the Indians, fishing and hunting in the western part of Missouri.

Upon their arrival in the Shady Nook area, Mr. Robinette and his children spent their first fall and winter staying with friends until they became settled. Avi bought a piece of land approximately 26 acres at the corner of the Burnt Lake Trail and Dave Hall's corner, from the railroad. This is where Cliff Wiggins now lives. It had 23 acres broken to sod and a creek running through it. The beavers, having dammed the creek, made an excellent swimming hole for his grandchildren.

To supplement his income, Avi worked for big farmers in Southern Alberta. He was working in Vulcan when he received word that his son, Bernise, was ill with polio. Bernise passed away August 7th, 1930.

On December 23, 1923, his daughter, Kermit married Roy Archibald, whose father had homesteaded in the Poplar Ridge district. Avi was not too pleased with her choice, so the young couple eloped to Edmonton and Avi scoured the countryside looking for them. He did not find them and by the time they returned he had reconciled himself to the marriage.

Mr. Robinette spent several years working his land and being caretaker at the Red Deer golf course. He kept busy all through his life; in his late seventies he worked in the Peace River district driving a binder with a team of



Bernice Robinette, outrider for the Oscar Silverberg chuckwagon in 1920's.

horses. He bought his first motorcycle at 72 years of age and rode it even though it almost killed him.

This hardy and independent man had many serious ailments and operations during his life span, but lived to almost 88 years of age.

As to the people in the Shady Nook area, I'm sure no one that ever met Mr. Robinette will ever forget him. He always had a candy for a child and most of the children in the area called him Grampa, as well as a few of the adults.

Mr. Robinette passed away August 19, 1964, at Red Deer. He is buried in the Red Deer Cemetery, where his son was buried in 1930 and his daughter in 1949.

(Written by his granddaughter Mrs. Kay VandenBrink)

ROBINSON, CLIFF AND IRENE

Cliff was a son of Bill and Weltha Robinson of Parry Sound, Ontario. He was born in 1896 and moved the family to a homestead at Benito, Manitoba, in 1898. Cliff was a veteran of the First World War. In 1941 he married Irene McCullough, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Randolph McCullough of Muskoka, Ontario. McCullough's homesteaded at Malonick, Saskatchewan in 1910. The Robinsons came to Shady Nook in 1947.

Cliff's brother, George, came with them. They bought the W ½ of Sec. 4 and after farming here until 1962, retired to Red Deer. Robinsons had one son, Derwin, when they came here and a daughter Faye was born in 1954. Derwin lives in Red Deer. Faye took her nurses

training at Red Deer College and married Murray Walper of Alix in 1975. They are both employed and live in Red Deer. George passed away in 1965 and Cliff in 1967. Irene went to work after Cliff's death and was employed at the Alberta School Hospital for six years prior to her marriage to Frank Bayford in 1974.

ROGERS, STEPHEN

A Nova Scotian related to the Biswanger family, Stephen Rogers came to the Shady Nook area in 1921 and bought the S.W. 15-38-28-W.4. The house on his farm was too cold to live in so he spent the winter months in the Raymer home.

He taught school at Shady Nook for two years. This was a difficult school for a teacher to keep order in the classroom as there were many big boys in school. Rogers rode a bicycle to and from school whenever he could. The big boys would pile brush on the road. When Rogers parked his bike to remove the brush, they would wheel the bike back up on the road. By the time he went and got the bike, the brush would be on the road again.

Stephen was not a robust sort of man. His nerves gave out on him and he retired from teaching. When he grew old he spent most or all of his remaining years with the kind and generous Byron and Julia Raymer.



Stephen Rogers.

ROSS, GEORGE AND THERESA

George was born to Scottish parents who lived in a small town in Ontario. The family moved to Kansas City, Missouri and when George grew up he married Theresa Bremencamp who was born in Cheyenne County, Missouri. George and Theresa established a ranch in that county. This was treeless prairie often so dry there were large cracks in the ground. The nearest thing to a tree was sage brush and the most abundant form of wildlife was snakes.

Ross's decided to move to Alberta and arrived in Red Deer in August, 1903. They brought their five children, two cows, four horses, household goods and some farm machinery. Their first home was the settlers' shack at Red Deer. This building contained one large room with a cook stove in one corner. Although they lived in it only until some time in October, their most vivid memory of it is that they were very cold and uncomfortable there.

In October that year they bought the S.W. 32-37-28-W4. There was a two story log house on this farm, two rooms on the ground floor and two upstairs. They found it to be a warm house. The winter of 1903 was the first time any of the Ross children had seen snow. What a novelty — and a change, lots of big trees and plenty of snow to play in. Their good neighbors Andrew and Karen Nyman who grew a large garden, regularly brought over bags full of produce. Rosses were amazed at the size of the vegetables that grew here. The Cheyenne County spuds they were used to grew to be about the size of large marbles.

That winter someone brought them a barrel of apples. Mr. Ross and two of his neighbors went fishing at Snake Lake. They came home with a sleigh box full and to top it all off, George shot a deer that winter. Never had the children saw such quantities of food stored ahead. Surely this new country must be quite similar to heaven they thought. Their eldest daughter, Gertrude, remembers a large slough a way south of the farmstead where the Indians often came to trap muskrats.

One day when Mr. Ross was away, three Indians came to the house. Mrs. Ross could not understand what they wanted. Finally the three Indians put their hand to their mouth, then spit on the floor. AH! chewing tobacco! There was none there and a terrified Mrs. Ross was glad they never came back.

When the Ross family settled in our district, they immediately ran into a problem. There was no school in this pioneer community. The two oldest children had been going to school and another was to start in the fall of 1904.

Mr. John Silverberg was the closest neighbor. His children went the long cold road to the Swan Lake school. Mr. Ross and Mr. Silverberg began to promote the formation of a school district here. They were joined by Captain McCune and Professor Charles Wright. In 1904 the district was formed and a school built. George Ross was the chairman of the first school board.

George bought a timbered quarter some distance west of Evarts and used to go there in the winter to harvest the trees and have them sawn into lumber. His intention was to build a new, bigger house on the farm in Shady Nook. When he had sufficient lumber for the purpose, he sold the quarter. He only hauled two loads home when he was forbidden to enter on the said premises and consequently lost the rest of the lumber to the new owners. In 1907 this

family was on the move again, this time to take up homestead land 16 miles south of Strome. They moved all their possessions out there by teams and wagons. They made several trips getting that place ready and looking after the farm here. We don't know just when they left here for good but their youngest son, Raymond was born at Strome on December 16, 1907.

There were five children in this family when they arrived in Shady Nook — Percy — 8; Gertrude — 7; Wylie — 5; James — 3 and Stella age 7 months. A daughter, Alice was born in 1905. Mrs. Ross died in 1940, Mr. Ross in 1946, Percy in 1956, and Alice in 1971. Wylie Ross was a veteran of World War I; he lost an arm, most of the other hand, had sustained several shrapnel wounds, and at present lives in the Shangri-la Lodge at Drayton Valley. Gertrude, now Mrs. Bogue, lives in Edmonton, James at Osyoos, B.C. and Stella, now Mrs. Alec McNeil lives in Sylvan Lake. Raymond lives at Rocky Mountain House.

Gertrude supplied most of the information for this history and her former friends will be glad to know she is hale and hearty at 80 years of age and says she would never consider leaving Alberta.

ROTH, JOSEPH P. AND DOROTHEA

My father Bernhard, his sister Magdelene, and three brothers; George, Jack and Joseph came to Regina, Saskatchewan in 1907 with their mother, Elizabeth, who had been widowed a few years earlier near Odessa, Russia. They stayed in Regina one winter.

The men worked on the C.P.R. sections and at other odd jobs they could pick up after hours. The women found work in restaurants and hotels whenever possible. In the spring of 1908 they moved to Bow Island, Alberta and took up squatters' rights, as land would not be thrown open for homesteads until the spring of 1910. They put in a small crop that first year, having very little power and no implements. An eight foot disc was used to scratch up the prairie; they broadcast the flax by hand. There was a lot of moisture that year so their first crop was wonderful.

My father, Bernhard, and mother, Helen, had fourteen children altogether, five born near Odessa, Russia, myself as the eldest, then George, Justine, Jack and Francis. Nine were born at Bow Island, Alberta. They are, from the eldest down: Andrew, Francis, Elizabeth, Bernhard, Katherine, Magdalene, Helen, Ralph, and Rosemary. To date there are twelve of us living; my infant sister, Francis passed away in 1910 and my sister Katie passed away at 18 years of age in 1937. We lost Father in 1953 and Mother in 1967.

I was married on the 28th of January, 1923 to Elizabeth Fix of Foremost. My home town was Nemaskam. Of that union there were four children, the oldest Jack, then Marie, Philip and Frank. Elizabeth passed away in 1934 in the Red Deer Hospital eleven days after Frank was born. I was a widower for the next four years, and then married my present wife, Dorothea Cheshire of Clive in 1938. Of that union we had six children. Joe was born in Red Deer Hospital while we still resided at Haynes. In the spring of 1940 we moved to the Poplar Ridge district of Red Deer to the old Bill Hunt place where our second child, Carl, was born. We then moved to our present home in the fall of 1945 where the

rest of the children; Lawrence, Lynn, Garth and Judy were born. Our home is situated exactly 4 miles west from Red Deer city center and one-half mile from the city limits.

Our primary reasons for leaving Russia were corruption and widespread crime. The authorities in Russia were quite often very lax and corrupt, from the policeman up to the magistrate in the highest court. A bottle of whiskey could very often get you off the hook if you murdered a man. Stealing of horses often occurred during the night. My Dad lost three horses one night by robbers gaining entry through the back stone wall of the barn and opening a hole large enough to take the horses through. Barn doors were always locked at night and vicious dogs tied in front of the barn door to keep robbers out. Pigs were often stolen by using any alcohol and mixing it with bran to form a soft ball and feeding that to the hogs. A drunk hog makes no noise so you can load him like a sack of wheat. All the machinery used on any given day had to be loaded and hauled to the field and then re-loaded and hauled home every night as it would be stolen by morning.

Dad could see trouble ahead as could many others and this proved to be quite correct!

There was a lot of talk amongst the people about the land in this far away Canada. You could get 160 acres for \$10.00 to homestead and the pre-emption on another 160 acres. After you had been there for five years, taken out citizenship, and proved up for pre-emption, you could pay \$500.00 to become the owner of a total of 320 acres. This looked mighty good when you consider that in Russia we didn't have a big enough place to set down a chair!

To immigrate to Canada you had to pay your passage plus \$250.00 for each person over the age of 21 as required by the Canadian Government before you could enter Canada. That was considered sufficient proof that you had the ability and will power to make a go of it in this country. Many didn't have the required additional money per adult so many of the more fortunate ones would help by staking them the \$250.00. This \$250.00 was just loaned to an immigrant until he had satisfied the authorities that he had the money and then he returned it to the lender, as they knew willingness and hard work would soon get them started.

We started our trip in January of 1910, having many difficulties to hold us up. We had our medicals on leaving the border of Russia. It was found that Dad and I had Trachoma of the eyes which required an operation plus 6 weeks in quarantine. We finally got going again and got as far as Liverpool, England where we were quarantined again. With the five children in the family it was hard to get going as we were not all well at the same time. Mother and Dad finally decided that Mother and our infant sister, Francis would stay behind for a time until Frances' health improved as she had had the measles. Dad would come on with the rest of the family, myself, eight years old; George, six; Justine, four; and Jack, three. But fortune was not with us and once more we landed in quarantine at the mouth of the St. Lawrence River. We were transferred off the big liner to a stern-wheeler out in the ocean and taken to the Island.

An amusing incident happened at this time. Dad had loaned five different people \$250.00 to get into Canada,

for which no agreement was made other than the verbal one. A problem came up as we were being transferred to the stern-wheeler, for no one had thought beforehand of the money they had borrowed and how they would get it back to Dad. At the last moment one of the men yelled down to Dad from the liner and they arranged for the man to collect all the money from the rest of the men and meet him in Regina, Saskatchewan off the immigration train. They, of course, hadn't realized that there were several of these trains every 24 hours. As it turned out the poor man met every train for a ten day period! Finally Dad stepped off the train and the man was able to return all the money that the five people had borrowed. There was a tired, but honest man!

We got to Bow Island, Alberta on the 10th of May, 1910. Mother came a week later with baby Francis who was in a very weak and run-down condition. She died three days later.

Dad, being a little luckier than most, had quite a little money so was able to buy all his machinery and stock which included such items as a binder, a seed drill, a plow, a disc, a wagon, a democrat, harrows, five horses, two cows, a pig, and a dozen or so chickens.

As we farmed in that very dry country we found that the machinery built by the machine companies did not fit the conditions. The machinery would pulverise the ground too much and the high winds would blow it away. People having no money had to devise and build their own machinery in a lot of cases.

Dad had given Jack and me 10 acres of land to plant corn in, which was another experiment. The planting was fine, no problem there, but Russian thistles were a big problem so we had to devise a means of keeping the land between the rows clean. A little rod weeder was required. Being mechanically minded, I built a little rod weeder about 30 inches wide with two handles on the back to guide it. A horse was hitched to the front to pull it with someone riding the horse to guide it. This little machine proved very effective in killing the Russian thistle that grew by the millions. I went on to invent a larger stationary rod weeder pulled by four or six horses. I built it out of material that could be found in old discarded implements. Upright standards were built out of old plow shares that carried the rod below. The land side of the share was knocked off, and about four inches was bent at right angles. Two holes were drilled at the bent angle and bolted to a 6" x 6" timber at the top. Holes were drilled in the share at the other end so the rod could be threaded through the other end using a nut at each end to hold it in place. A V-shaped frame was added to the top and extended back about fourteen feet. A sliding seat was attached on top of the frame with brackets so it would slide. The operator would sit on the seat sideways so if he had to get off fast because of a bump, he could do so safely. He would slide forward for more weight and penetration into the ground, or back for less weight in loose soil. Penetration didn't need to be more than two inches. The hitch for the horses to pull it was simply a log-chain thrown around the 6" x 6" timber at two points near the outside edges, brought forward in a V with a clevis and double tree where the horses were hooked on. The one thing we didn't like about this operation was that when you hit a solid rock you knew for sure it would jar the folks in the old country!

We went to homestead in the spring of 1911 and built our first lumber shack on the prairie. By now, Dad's money was all gone.

1911 proved to be a fairly wet, cold year and our crop froze. From then on for the next good many years Dad worked wherever he could find a job to keep his family in what little food and clothing they needed. I was made number one farmer with Dad coming home every weekend whenever possible. 1912 and '13 were fair crop years, 1914 being one of the dryest we ever saw. 1915 to '17 were very good years. In 1917 we only had half a crop but because the First World War had been raging we made more money than a good full crop in ordinary years. Until 1926 about one out of five years were fair to good.

By that time the family were well grown up and were thoroughly disgusted with the prairies so were willing to make another start somewhere else.

That's how we came to settle in the Red Deer district in 1926 at Haynes. We rented a section and a half, partly broke and carried on from there; there were a lot of hard years and some were good years and we survived. I rented another half section in the spring of 1928 and had a very nice crop until I was hailed out on August 11. That was the first hailstone Victor Hoppis had seen in that district for the 38 years that he'd lived there.

We brought all our equipment, stock and supplies from southern Alberta by boxcar. We had four carloads of settlers' effects, because the government was paying most of the freight at that time to help settlers who were pulling out of the dry belt, we were able to move all our possessions.

My stock brand was **JP** on the left hip.

I also bought a steam threshing outfit which was the pride and joy of the whole family because it provided jobs for us in southern Alberta. Threshing runs were long there because all the crops were stacked. Once stacked, threshing could be carried on because they were safe from the weather. Runs were anywhere from thirty-five to forty days long. We also had a cook house and bunk house on wheels for the men. I never used the steamer after I came to Haynes, although I had a thirty day permit. I could not get either of my two engineers away from southern Alberta as the year after we left they had the best crop that country had ever seen and all the engineers were required to stay where they were.

Dad then bought our first 15-30 International so we went threshing with it. The old Waterloo Separator was hard to keep together. I ran it with a gas engine. It was an awful let-down because the gas engines of that size did not have sufficient power.

ROTH, JOSEPH JR. AND JEAN

Joe was born in Red Deer in 1939 and lived at Haynes until 1940 when he moved with his parents to the Poplar Ridge district. In 1945 they moved to the farm where Joe's folks still live. He married Jean Thompson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Hal Thompson, in 1961 and lived in a trailer at home until 1963 when they moved into Red Deer. In 1967 Joe bought the Jenses acreage. The family lived there until the fall of 1970 when they moved to Hal Thompson's farm in Poplar Ridge where they still live.

Joe and Jean have three daughters; Bonnie born in 1961, Rose born in 1963 and Karrie born in 1966.

After their short stay in the city the family thoroughly enjoyed country living. The common threat to the children was "If you don't be good we'll move back to town". It worked wonders! Bonnie and Rose started school from here and of course Orville Gehrke was their bus driver. No one was worshipped more than Orville. There was also the excitement of hatching chicks, calves and of course puppies and kittens.

Joe was employed at Case Power and Equipment and Versaline Farm Center until he went farming with Hal Thompson in 1970.

SCARR, DAN AND JANET

Both are natives of Vancouver, B.C. Dan and Janet Scarr were married in 1968, and moved to Olds in December, 1970, to attend college. After graduation in 1973, they moved to a ranch near Calgary, and moved again to the Red Deer area in spring of 1975, onto the farm of Ron Didier. Presently Janet is employed at the Red Deer Co-op and Dan with Canada Packers in Lacombe.

SCHUETZ, ADOLF AND RITA

Adolf Schuetz was born in Poland and also lived in both East and West Germany. He came to Canada in 1956 where he worked in Barrhead and Edmonton, Alberta before coming to Red Deer. In Red Deer his brother and he formed Standard Drywall Ltd. which they presently own and operate.

He married the former Rita Dei of Edmonton in 1968. They have three children: Shauna, six; Darren, five, and David, four, all of whom were born in Red Deer.

In 1971 Adolf and family took up residence in the Shady Nook District, (N.W. ¼ 32, 37, 28 W 4th), and built a new home on this land.

SCHUETZ, EDMUND AND CHRISTA

Edmund was born in Poland and immigrated to Canada in 1958. Ed and his brother formed Standard Drywall Ltd., and decided Red Deer would be a good location as it was situated centrally between Calgary and Edmonton.

Christa (Albus) Schuetz came to Canada from West Germany in 1965. She lived in Edmonton and married Ed in Red Deer in 1966.

They have two children, Nicola - 7 and Mark - 5, both born in Red Deer. Ed and Christa lived in Red Deer until they bought S.W. - 8 - 38 - 28 - W 4 in June of 1972. They built a new home on their land in 1974, completing it in 1975.

SCHOCH, ADOLPHE G. AND ADELE

Adolphe Schoch was born in South Africa in 1885. Of Dutch and Swiss ancestry, he received his education in Switzerland and was employed in sugar export and import for a few years following his education. In 1910 Canada was portrayed as the land of opportunity at the World Exposition in Brussels, Belgium. This appealed to Mr. Schoch and in 1913 he immigrated to this great country. He apprenticed farming for Chet Northey, in the Balmoral district. Later he moved to the Waskasoo

district and lived on the S.E.¼ 2-38-28-W.4 on the east side of the river.

Since Mr. Schoch was a newcomer, the ladies of the W.I. thought they should pay him a visit. Mr. Schoch found out and being a gracious host, decided to make some lunch. He thought pie might be quite becoming for his guests, but after the dough was mixed he couldn't figure out how to keep the crust from springing back, so he used clothes pins all around the edge to keep everything in place.

Time passed and in 1919 he bought the N.E.¼ 2-38-28-W.4 and the remaining portion of S.E. 2-38-28-W.4, which was aptly named the Wild Rose Ranch. This farm lay on the west side of the river beside the Beatty ford. He purchased a house in Red Deer and moved this out to his farm. In the meantime he kept on corresponding with his sweetheart in Europe. By 1923 he needed some help, and George and Kit Butler came to his aid. In the spring of 1924, Mr. Schoch left his farm in their capable hands and sailed for Europe to marry Adele Meyberg.

Mrs. Schoch was of German descent, born and educated in Heidelberg. She was a registered nurse during World War I. Upon learning that her future lay on a farm in Canada she apprenticed on one in Europe. Together they became progressive and large farmers. Mr. Schoch used two 15-30 tractors. In 1927 he bought a combine, it was the only one in Shady Nook for several

years. A book published by the Bank of Montreal about farming in the Red Deer area describes Mr. Schoch as "one of the prosperous farmers".

As the Depression grew greater it took its toll of farmers and didn't pass the Schochs, however they didn't give up. Tough times were very evident but Mr. Schoch kept his outstanding herd of Holstein cows and Mrs. Schoch started a herd of Hampshire sheep. This was the only herd of sheep for miles around at that time and occupied a lot of her time, but she always had time for her beautiful flowers and garden. Also an early morning swim was very refreshing to her. The swim season began in mid-May and lasted until threshing was underway in the fall. She was a very hardy and vigorous woman.

Mrs. Schoch served as a highly respected trustee on the Shady Nook school board for several years. One of her monuments is the fine hedge planted around the school yard, in the early thirties. She also served as the secretary for the Swiss Club of Alberta for several years. Mrs. Schoch could speak fluently in six languages and Adolph could answer back in four.

Their only daughter, Helen (Lotty), crossed the river by boat and attended Waskasoo school as it was closer, in spite of the river, than Shady Nook. At freeze-up in the fall and during the spring thaw, Lotty lived at Mrs. Blanche Rolands. Lotty never thought anything about rowing across the river, but claims, "I would never let my family do it."

Mr. and Mrs. Schoch continued to live on their farm along the Red Deer River until their tragic death in a car accident in December of 1959.

Wild Rose Ranch is presently owned and operated by their daughter and son-in-law, Helen (Lotty) and George Ninkovich.

SCOTT, BILL AND MARION

Bill was born in Chicago, Illinois and came to Vegreville in 1913 as an infant with his parents. He worked in the Vegreville area before coming to Red Deer. In 1948 he married the former Marion Hacquoil. Marion was born in Halifax, Nova Scotia and came to Red Deer in 1946 to stay with her sister Mrs. Bob Edgar of Poplar Ridge. After their marriage Bill worked in Edmonton and Vegreville before returning to Red Deer in the fall of 1950. Bill has worked in Red Deer area, Sims Auction Mart, and Red Deer General Hospital where he is presently employed. They have one son David born in 1949. David took his schooling in Red Deer. In May of 1967 he joined the Air Force. He is presently serving with the Air Force at Kamloops, B.C. where he resides with his wife and two daughters.

In the spring of 1964 Bill and Marion moved to the Shady Nook district and they reside on the farm of Don Morrison.

SHIRLEY, FRANK AND ELIZABETH

Frank and Elizabeth Shirley left the sunny Sacramento Valley in California in 1913 to come to the frozen wastes of Alberta. Land was high priced in that fruit growing area. The average holding was 10 acres. One hundred and sixty acres sounded like a large farm to them and land prices in Alberta seemed cheap. The south part of the province and the Stettler area were highly touted as a never-fail wheat growing area. Shirleys later



Mr. and Mrs. Adolphe Schoch celebrating 25th wedding anniversary, 1949.

recall that the information about this area carefully avoided any description of the winters!

They first settled in the Antler Hill district where they farmed for three years. Their first winter in our area, 1918-19 was spent on the Norman Faudry farm N.W. 20-37-28-W4. From 1919 to 1924 they farmed part of the Plummer estate S.W. of 4. In July of '24, Shirleys experienced something that's not supposed to happen in a sure crop area — they were completely hailed out. Frank and Elizabeth said enough is enough. They arranged to have George Butler take over their lease and they returned to the U.S.A.

There was one daughter, Gertrude, in this family. She married Bill Wilson of the Ridgewood district. Gertrude and Bill farmed the John Anderson quarter, N.W. 16, for one year, then moved to Red Deer. Bill worked for W. E. Lord for eight months and stayed to work for The T. Eaton Co. when they bought the W. E. Lord store. Bill stayed with this job for 32 years. Wilsons retired in Red Deer. Bill has passed away now. Gertrude lives in Red Deer.

Gertrude says it's ironic that all the years she went to school, she walked four miles to get there and as soon as she finished her education, Shirleys moved to the S.W. of 4, the quarter with the Shady Nook School on it.

SILVERBERG, JOHN AND MARTHA

Both were born in Sweden in 1866. Martha was a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Olaf Nyman. John served in the Swedish Cavalry from 1887 to 1894. They came to Alberta in 1895 and worked on the Bar U Ranch at Pikisko. The young cowboys, as was the custom in those days, took the first opportunity to get John on a real bucking horse. They knew nothing about his days in the cavalry and were surprised that he easily rode the bronc.

In 1899 they left the ranch to come to Red Deer. They herded some cattle and horses along on the trip. All their belongings were in two wagons. The journey took five days. It was in the spring of '95 that the ice smashed the traffic bridge at Red Deer. The Silverbergs crossed a few days before it happened.



Back Row — Bill Silverberg, Oscar Silverberg, Hannah Stokes, (sister of Mrs. Martha Silverberg), Martha Silverberg, John Silverberg Sr., Fannie Silverberg holding Grace Silverberg. Front Row — Evelyn Stokes, John Silverberg Jr., Isobel Silverberg about 1917.



Edith, Isobel, George and Bill Silverberg in Model T, 1918.

A log house and barns were built, all with a sod roof; later shingles were obtained and the roofs were improved.

The children in the family were - Oscar; Carl (who died of the flu while still in the army in 1918); George (married Myrtle Jacobson in 1926 and died one year later following an appendix operation); Bill (who married Emma Johnson and lived in Red Deer for thirty-seven years and used a snow plane in the winter for three or four years when the roads were drifted); Edith, (married Paul Crawford and lives in Red Deer); Isobel (who remained single and stayed to look after her parents).

The Silverbergs ran a mixed farm with milk cows, Clyde horses and a large flock of Buff Orpington chickens. He had some fine horses that took prizes at many fairs. Silverberg's love of horses spread to the rest of the family and they all had good saddle horses as long as they were able to look after them. The children drove a horse to school; one old mare became a favorite with their children and grandchildren and lived to be thirty-five years old.

They cleaned the grain with a fanning mill. Everyone who was able took a turn cranking that machine. Mrs. Silverberg and the children were responsible for milking the fifteen cows. Butter and eggs were sold every week. Martha was a very capable homemaker, and was noted for the many large hand made rugs that she had in her home. She loved the shrubs and shade trees around their house, grew a large garden, cured the meat, and always had a welcome and a good meal for a visitor.

The Silverberg home was used to hold dances and parties. It was a popular place for young and old alike.

John enjoyed hunting — in his younger days he had won a medal in Sweden for marksmanship. He was very proud of it and wore it pinned to his hat as long as he lived. John served as a road foreman for the Municipal District of the Golden West. He was a trustee at Shady Nook for seventeen years.

In 1941, after many active years in Shady Nook they retired to Sylvan Lake where Martha passed away in 1954, eighty-eight years old. John remained in good health and was active for many years. He was going fishing, playing billiards, and telling tales of long ago when well into his nineties. In 1967 he was teaching his son Oscar some finer points about shooting billiards. The son was 80 years old and Dad was 101. He was able to read the Red Deer Advocate at that age without glasses.

Mr. John Silverberg passed away after a short illness just under 103 years old.

SILVERBERG, OSCAR

Oscar Silverberg was born in Sweden on September 11, 1887, came to the Bar U Ranch at High River in 1895 with his parents. While at the Bar U, he had the pleasure of knowing an ex-slave from the south, a Negro ranchhand at the Bar U at that time, named John Ware, Later Ware became a rancher and cattleman, and Grant McEwan wrote a book about his life. The Silverberg family moved north to the Shady Nook district in 1899 and Oscar took some more schooling.

In the early 1900's he baited a dead calf with poison to kill some coyotes. A silver fox ate the poison and was found dead nearby. He skinned it and took the pelt to Edmonton to a fur dealer and got \$1,000.00 for it. Oscar, being a horse lover, bought a race horse "Zomvert" with the money. Zomvert was later traded for four brood mares.

He then went back to the south for a few years. He came back north and in 1911, he married Francis Bickley and they farmed in the Hill End district, southeast of Penhold until approximately 1915. Their son, John, was born in 1913 and two daughters, Grace in 1916 and Edith, in 1918. His wife predeceased him in 1953.

After farming with horses for several years, in 1928 he bought a new John Deere tractor. In 1929 he and his son, John, did a lot of breaking in the Poplar Ridge district and the following year they did a lot more breaking in the Leslieville district.

Some time in the late 1920's or early 1930's, Oscar took a box car full of horses to the Peace River country to sell for Stewart Brothers of Penhold. The following year he and the late Angus Martin and Angus's son, John, trailed a big herd of horses to the Peace River country, also to sell for Stewart Brothers.

Oscar and Charlie Meders "a neighbour" put on a successful stampede at Sylvan Lake in the mid 1920's.



Oscar Silverberg on old Baldy.

They took a chuckwagon to the Calgary stampede several years in the 1920's and early 1930's.

Some of their outriders were from this area, including Tommy Wheaton, Lorain Barns, Bill Silverberg, Bernise Robinette and Henry Langley. Oscar judged the bucking contests at many stampedes throughout the country, having judged 49 consecutive stampedes at Benalto. He missed the one in 1966 as he was on a trip to the coast at the time. He judged Jack Daines first ride. Oscar also calf roped at many stampedes including Calgary and supplied some bucking horses to several stampedes. One horse that he raised, "Roxey", was sold at a bucking horse sale in Innisfail to Herman Linder and was taken to Madison Square Gardens for stampedes.

He had the pleasure of meeting Wilf Carter at a Calgary stampede, "a kid starting a singing career sitting on the corral fence playing his guitar and singing".

When Oscar was invited and attended a banquet at the Horseman's Hall of Fame in Calgary in 1968 where his X brand is installed on the ceiling, he had the pleasure of sitting between John Wares two daughters at the dinner table.

Oscar spent several winters working in lumber camps west of Rocky Mountain House and caught a few fish in the mountain streams. He passed away December 19, 1972 at the age of 85, leaving three children, four grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

BOURBON

It was back in nineteen thirty-eight
A little colt came forth
We stood around and watched him
Guessing at his worth.

He was foaled in Whisky Gap
A lovely little bay
Sometime between the eighteenth
And the twenty-first of May.

His dam a little sorrel
He was sired by Oriole
Owned by Johnny Kipling
That race horse, loving soul.

That fall his owner shipped him north
With some more for sale
And somehow Oscar got him
Now let him tell the tale.

He spent the next three years in pasture
Grew into a nice looking horse
But when it came to break him
I never saw one worse.

One season on Swain's chuckwagon
With his mate hooked to the pole
But he didn't like the racket
So was soon out of that role.

Then a whirl with the saddle broncs
But he didn't like the chutes
He no doubt sometimes wondered
What the boys strapped on their boots.

Then Bud Cressman got him
Thinking a saddle horse he'd make
But between the two of them
It was always give and take.

I used to call him Bourbon
He didn't care a rap
I guess the reason was
He came from Whisky Gap.

Harry the Ranger now owns him
And brought him out to camp
No matter how hard he is ridden
He has really proved a champ.

Now I have told of Bourbon
Harry calls him Dan
The toughest piece of horse flesh
That ever packed a man.

I'll have to end the story
And think I have done my best
And let Harry, since he owns him
Go ahead and tell the rest.

Oscar Silverberg

A FLUNKEY'S DREAM

When the lumberjacks come in to eat,
After working hard all day,
All you hear is their shuffling feet;
Till they start to stow away.

There's lots of grub and awful good,
They all put on some fat.
But, oh! the smell of the good pine wood,
Has a lot to do with that.

After supper they settle down,
To crib, chess and poker.
While some go over to call on Brown,
The camp's genial joker.

The cook puts in two shifts in one,
And never says a word.
The durn old flunkey the son-of-a-gun,
Calls the boys the thundering herd.

The bull cook's the busiest man in camp,
Arguing and splitting wood.
At the former he is a champ,
And the latter very good.

The loggers cut one-hundred a day,
The skidders deck the same.
From which they all will draw good pay,
The secret of the game.

The catman crawls aboard at eight,
He pulls out with a roar.
He hauls his loads all chained on straight,
And goes right back for more.

The sawyer at the levers stands,
The carriage rolls back and forth.
The canter with his hook in hand,
Has got to prove his worth.

Some may think the blacksmith shirks,
When a broken sloop comes in.
But he takes one look, and gives it the works,
And out it goes like new again.

The boss is one of the very best,
So the boys all claim.
He works as hard as any of the rest,
A big output is his aim.

One day in March as the sun goes down,
The logging and sawing are done.
The boys all get their slips from Brown,
And the next day they are gone.

Oscar Silverberg

SILVERBERG, JOHN AND DOROTHY

John was the only son of Oscar and Frances Silverberg. He was born while they were on the farm in the Hill End district (S.E. of Penhold) in 1913. In 1915, he moved with his parents to the S.E. of 25-27-1-W.5. This quarter is in the S.E. corner of Burnt Lake and it is the place where Ridgewood, Burnt Lake and Shady Nook join. John grew up belonging to the three districts. He worked at home for several years and as the saying goes he "swung a mean hoof" until his marriage to Dorothy Gillette on April 22, 1942.

Dorothy was the oldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bert Gillette of Ridgewood. They lived in Shady Nook for a few years on the Grandad Silverberg homestead and then moved to a farm just south of Sylvan Lake. There are two children; Guy born November 5, 1947 and Janet born March 26, 1953. Guy is now living in Calgary and Janet (Mrs. Albert), lives in Red Deer and has one son and one daughter.



John Silverberg overhauling John Deere tractor, 1935.

SKIBA, KEN AND CARRIE

It was Centennial year 1967, that brought Ken and Carrie together in marriage: in fact their wedding on December 29, 1967, in the United Missionary Church of Didsbury, Alberta was their Centennial Project!

Ken is the eldest son of Mrs. Hilda Skiba and the late John Skiba of Wapella, Saskatchewan, and lived on the farm for all of his pre-college days.

Carrie is the eldest daughter of Rev. Howard and Ruth Griffin, now of Olds, Alberta. Carrie spent most of her pre-college days in Calgary, Alberta, while her father was minister of North Hill Nazarene Church.

In the fall of 1966, Ken and Carrie both enrolled at Canadian Nazarene College in Wininipeg, Manitoba for a year of study. It was there they became acquainted, and they were married the following year in Didsbury. They lived in Didsbury for a short time, during which Carrie was a secretary at the high school and Ken worked for Remer Transport.

In May of 1968, they moved to Edmonton, where Ken apprenticed as a mechanic in a service station. In the fall of 1968 he enrolled in the faculty of Education in Industrial Arts, at the U. of A.

Eleanor was born November 13, 1968, after which Carrie worked at the U. of A. in the Registrar's office until Michael was born on August 11, 1971.

In August of '71, the family moved to Moosomin Saskatchewan, where Ken engaged in first year teaching, setting up the course in Industrial Arts at the school. On October 9, 1972 Steven was born.

After three years in Moosomin, they moved to Red Deer in July of 1974 where Ken was employed by the Separate School Board.

They became acquainted with Mr. and Mrs. Bart Moore and moved into the Shady Nook District upon receiving permission from the Red Deer County to set their mobile home on Mr. Moore's property.

SMITH, ALBAN

Alban Smith and family, Charles, Alban Jr. and one daughter bought S.W. 34 in 1909. They came from Chicago, but were not very successful at farming. In 1911 Smith gave the C.P.R. a right of way through the S.E. 34 and a roadway in from the west across the north end of S.W. 34 to the siding of Mintlaw.

SMITH, CHRIS

Chris Smith and his wife lived on S.W. 2-38-28-4 during 1902-3. They came from Nebraska and brought a bunch of good horses with them. All the horses died of swamp fever, which was very bad in those years. They returned to the U.S.A.

SMITH, THORPE AND OLIVE

Olive was a daughter of Pete Code, a pioneer of the Springvale district east of Red Deer. She married Thorpe Smith, who was the third agent to serve at the Cygnet elevator for U.G.G. He started the job in 1927 after Mr. Bratke left and lived in Shady Nook until 1933.

They had two girls, Patricia and Geraldine.

SODERBERG, LARS

Two families of Soderbergs came to Shady Nook from Sweden, during 1910.

Lars settled on N.W. 4-38-28-W4. The children were Edith (Mrs. Ernie Losse), Jean (Mrs. Stainor Valli), Annie (Mrs. Cameron), and Ellen (Mrs. John Nyman). Since Mr. Nyman's death in 1939, Ellen has been

married three times. The boys were Hilding, John, Wesley, Sexton and Enar. Hilding and Wesley made their home in West Park district of Red Deer, and Sexton farmed one mile north of Sylvan Lake. Enar left a wife and three small children, all boys. Harold lives in Red Deer, William in Edmonton and Charles farms twelve miles east of Olds.

SODERBERG, LARS (See story of NILS SODERBERG — BURNT LAKE SECTION for the Soderbergs arrival in Red Deer)

Lars was born at Helgums, Sweden, November 12, 1858. His wife, Brita, was also born in Sweden, on September 21, 1872. Lars and his eldest son, Hilding, came to the Red Deer area in 1911 and worked at anything they could find to do. They worked at lumbering and joined the boisterous Bill Jones' log driving crew and herded logs down the Red Deer River to the Great West Lumber Mill. Lars was eventually able to buy a good team of horses and Hilding a team of mules. They hauled freight to Rocky Mountain House and brought lumber back from the Pettifer Mill at Evergreen. They also used their teams to haul gravel onto some of the streets of Red Deer. Being hard working and thrifty men, they did fairly well and in 1912 Lars was able to send for his wife and three sons, John, Enar and Sexton and one girl Anna. The remaining three children, Edith, Jean and Wesley, were born in Canada.

Lars and Hilding stayed with Lar's brother-in-law, Eric Johanson when they were not on the road but when Brita and the children arrived, they moved into a house on the S.W. of 6-38-28-4 that had been built by Bill Bannerman. Lars was an excellent axe man and while living there he built the log barn on the Axel Johanson home quarter. The poplar logs were obtained from the N.W. of 8-38-28-4 and after they were hauled, they were hewed by Lars and Nils Soderberg. Lars lived for awhile on the S.W. 12-38-1-5 and then moved on to the E½ of 1-38-1-5 where Lars again built log barns. From section one they moved to the Shady Nook district and bought the N.W. of Sec. 4 from Miles Willett. They lived on this farm until 1927. Sexton bought a farm one mile north of Sylvan Lake. Wesley made his home in the West Park district of Red Deer. Edith married Ernie Losse. Jean married Stainor Valli, Annie married Jack Cameron and Ellen married John Nyman. Enar, John and Hilding have separate histories in Shady Nook.

Lars was an ambitious hard working man who was well liked by his neighbors. He passed away on March 27, 1933. Brita was buried on September 15, 1961, both are laid to rest in the Burnt Lake Cemet

SODERBERG, HILDING AND SADIE

Hilding Soderberg was born in Sweden in 1894 and came to Shady Nook with his parents in 1913. They lived on the N.W. of 4. He married Sadie Anderson, who was born at Markerville in 1890. They raised a large family. The boys were Fred, Albert, John and an infant son who died in 1926. Albert and John have also passed away. Fred lives in the Poplar Ridge district. A young daughter passed away in 1927. The girls living are Reggie (Mrs. Murray Peterson of Bentley); Eleanor (Mrs. Hills of Rocky Mountain House); Lillian (Mrs. Klym of Moncton, New Brunswick); Betty of Calgary and Terry of Edmonton.

Soderbergs farmed the S.W. of 33 from 1921 to 1924. Their house was built by Otto Johanson and like several houses built in the early days, it has never received a coat of paint. This family moved to the Burnt Lake district, one year at Lacombe, and then moved to the West Park area in Red Deer. Hilding worked in Red Deer for the Massey Harris Agent and also for International Harvester Co.

A genial neighbour of Hildings, Bill Jones once asked Hilding how come he was usually referred to as "Old Hilding." Hilding said "I dunno, but by yeasus I bain old Hilding since I vus 26!"

Hilding passed away at Red Deer in 1964 and Sadie died at 83 years of age in 1973.

SODERBERG, ENAR AND MINNIE

Enar was the fourth son of Mr. and Mrs. Lars Soderberg. He was born in 1901 and joined the Canadian Army when he was 16 years old. Enar was husky and mature for his age. Upon his return from overseas in late 1918, he married Minnie Lutton of the Burnt Lake District. Minnie was living with the Ralston family and had immigrated with them from Ireland in 1914.

Enar again volunteered for active duty and was with the Canadian troops in Siberia at the time of the allied armies intervention in the Russian Revolution.

In 1922, Enar and Minnie bought the SW of 9-38-28-4th through the Soldier Settlement Board. They lived here for four years. In 1926, Enar had the contract to supply the school with firewood five cords at \$4.25 per cord. Soderbergs had three sons: William of Edmonton,



Enar Soderberg at age 16.

Richard now farming east of Olds, and Harold who is the postmaster in Red Deer.

Mrs. Soderberg passed away in Edmonton in Feb. of 1976.

SODERBERG, JOHN

John Soderberg, son of Lars, married Vesta Plummier in 1928. He was a carpenter by trade. They lived on the N.W. 32-37-28-W4 until 1942. John was a military policeman during the war, and later worked for the police department at Red Deer and Calgary. They had one son George and one daughter Edna, both of Calgary. Vesta lives in Red Deer.



John and Vesta Soderberg.

SODERQUIST, JOHN RICHARD

John Richard Soderquist was born in Sweden in 1886. He came to the U.S.A. as an infant with his parents. In 1906 they moved to the Carmangay district of Alberta.

In 1909 he married the former Mary Muller a native of Austria, born 1891. She emigrated to the U.S.A. as a young girl then moved to the Carmangay area in 1909.

They had three daughters; Annie, (now Mrs. Switzer) lives in Red Deer; and twin girls, the late Mrs. Atwell, and Lavone, Mrs. Livingston (Larratt) now residing in Victoria. Richard Soderquist and family lived on the old Dudney place for one winter then moved to the Shady Nook district in 1917, where he purchased the Bill Grier Farm, E½ of Sec. 8-38-28 W 4th.



John and Mary Soderquist with daughters, Lavone, Lorene and Annie.

After clearing land, with the help of his family, John engaged in mixed farming. The barn was lost in a fire around 1925. It was rebuilt later and a barn dance was held at the new barn to celebrate.

Mr. Soderquist passed away in 1944. Mrs. Soderquist lived on the farm until 1968 when she moved to Red Deer. Mrs. Soderquist passed away in 1970.

SOLEY, JOHN AND MARGARET

John Soley was married to Margaret Langley in 1927. They farmed the Soley estate until 1942, when it was sold. It now belongs to Bill Stewart. They rented land in the area until 1948 when they moved to Red Deer. They have seven children, Mary Aubuchon of Red Deer, Byron of Red Deer, Eva Tate of Balmoral District, John, Donna Brady, and Donald all residents of Red Deer, and Mrs. Pat Payne of Vernon, B.C.



Soley family — Back Row — Henry Langley, Noel L., John Soley Jr., George L., Art L., Alfred L., John Soley Sr. Middle Row — Trevor Boyden, Dick B., Esther S. holding Norma, Clayton Bates, Helen L., Bert Payne, Mary Aubuchon, Eva Sils, Don S., Eva Bates, Byron S., Bland Aubuchon. Front — Colletta Boyden, Pat Payne, Lee L., Hedley L., Margaret Soley, Peggy L., June Boyden and Donna Soley. Children are: Sharon Soley, John Aubuchon, Doug Soley and Marg Aubuchon.

SOLEY, JARVAIS AND JULIA

Jarvais Soley, a resident of Halifax, N.S., married Mary Lougheed in 1893. They had five children; John, Mary, Jarvais, Bill and Margaret. Mrs. Soley died in 1898. In 1900 Mr. Soley married Julia Biswanger and in 1902 they moved west with an infant daughter, Edith to homestead with Jarvais' father, Lawson Soley. Margaret stayed in the East. Jarvais' mother had passed away before they came west.

Jarvais and Julia farmed the N.E. ¼ 20-38-28-W.4, now Bill Stewart's home place. They had three children; Edith Dancocks of Calgary, Hazel Middleton of Calgary, and Leonard of Edmonton.

Jarvais Soley passed away in 1910. Julia Soley married Byron Raymer in 1912.

Jarvais' son Bill then farmed the homestead of his grandfather and father. In 1928 he married the former Thelma Prentise. They had three children; LeRoy, Lorne and Keith.

In 1942, Bill Soley moved to Calgary with the C.P.R. He retired in Calgary and passed away in 1966.

SPECK, GORDON

Gordon Speck came about 1900 and settled a little south of Shady Nook. There was always something happening where Gordon went.

Gordon was a bachelor. One day he left Braithwaite's place leading a two-year-old bronc. It was very cold and he had on a sheepskin coat with a high collar, turned up. He had gone about two miles when the colt kicked him on the side of the head. Due to the high collar, he had not seen what the colt was doing. An hour later he regained consciousness and was lying in the snow, no colt in sight.

Another scene - on one rainy day, a group of people sat in a room. One, an old lady, sat quietly knitting. Gordon struck a match on the seat of his pants to light his pipe. The head of the match flew off across the room, landed on the old lady's head and set her hair on fire. Result - a very excited old lady and a very embarrassed Gordon.

One time before the herd laws, Gordon left home one day, forgetting to shut the door of his shack. He also forgot to close the yard gate. It was hot - the heel flies bad. When he returned the shack was full of cattle. He had a violent temper, so he picked up a club and waded in. The cattle went over the bed, the table and the stove. When the shack was clear, the furniture was all broken and the shack urgently needed cleaning!

In the summer of 1915 Gordon had two hired men, Arthur and John, age sixteen. John believed in devils and ghosts, and so was a good target for a scare. One evening after dark they went to the barn, where Gordon got John interested in a horse he was going to sell him. He said to Arthur, "You go over to Frank Scott's place and borrow an axe - we will cut brush tomorrow." Arthur went to the house, dressed as a devil, came in to the back of the barn, dragging a chain, and made straight for John. John sprang to his feet and bolted for the house. He was fast, but the devil was fast too and when they reached the house there was no time to open the screen door so John crashed through and fell on the floor.

Gordon worked throughout a large area oiling harnesses and repairing leather goods of all kinds and it

was an occasion to remember as he lived in our homes until the job was done.

STEPHENSON, W. H.

William Stephenson of Coe Hill Mines, Hastings County, Ontario came to Shady Nook to locate a homestead in the summer of 1900. There was very little suitable land left for homesteading here at that time.

On August 7th, he filed on the S.W. 16-38-28-W4 with the intention of taking up residence in the spring of 1901. He experienced considerable difficulty in settling his affairs in Ontario. Photostats of letters show he requested on three separate occasions an extension of the date of occupancy. The Department of the Interior granted each request. First to June 15, 1901; to September 1, 1901 and then to June 15, 1902. The last request was granted so as to allow him to bring a carload of young stock to his farm from Ontario.

The S.W. of 16 was a low wet quarter, only made suitable for farming by the completion of the drainage ditch from Burnt Lake. There was so much water on it in the spring on 1902, there was very little pasture available. When he was advised of this, he cancelled his plans and gave up all rights to this land. The homestead rights were then taken up by Byron Ephriam Raymer on July 10, 1902.

Mr. Stephenson was described as a desirable type of homesteader and one who had good connections. The somewhat unusual procedure followed on his behalf seems to verify at least part of that assessment.

STEWART, JAMES HERBERT (HERB) 1893

Herb Stewart was born at Agincourt, Ontario, May 22, 1893 to James T. and Mary Duncan Stewart. After serving in the Railroad Battalion during the First World War (1914-1918) he farmed in Ontario.

In 1925 he moved to the Red Deer area and rented the NE 36-38-28-W4th. He purchased N½ of 11-38-28-W4th from Mr. Hives in 1928. He farmed this land until the early 1960's when he sold all but 30 acres to Rueben Bollinger.

Herb still enjoys good health at 83 years old. He still has a few cattle on his acreage and grows a little hay for feed for them.

STEWART, WILLIAM FRANCIS AND DOROTHEA

William Stewart was born at Agincourt, Ontario, on September 2, 1900 to James T. and Mary Duncan Stewart.

He came west to the Innisfail area in 1923 to work on a farm, returning to Ontario in the fall.

In 1924 he returned to the Red Deer Area and purchased a farm at NW 36-38-28-4th.

On March 31st, 1925 he was married to Dorothea Wright, only daughter of James and Adah Handford Wright of the Crossroads district. Dorothea was born June 29, 1900 at Hartney, Manitoba. The Wrights came to the Red Deer area in 1902, where Mr. Wright purchased a farm (NW 25-38-28-W4th), and followed his trade as a bricklayer.

William and Dorothea Stewart had four children, James H., Robert G., Dorothea Mary, and William Lewis. They received their education at the Crossroads, Shady Nook, and Poplar Ridge schools. Bill took the latter part of his education in the city when the school system was centralized to Red Deer.

In 1938 William sold his farm and moved to live with his brother Herb in the Shady Nook District. In 1939 he rented the SW 4-38-28-W4th for three years from Mrs. Plumber. After the three year tenure he purchased NE 20-38-28-W4th from Mr. Byron Raymer and later purchased the NW 20-38-20-W4th from Mrs. Raymer.

William Stewart was active in farming and carpentry until his passing in 1972. The farm is now being operated by his two sons James and Robert.

STOREY, CARL

Rented the Thornton farm in 1916 and lived in the district one year.

SPRINGSTIEN

Bought the S.W. of 4 from Oscar Messlin.

STRIMBOLDH, E. J.

E. J. Strimboldh and family arrived in Red Deer June 22, 1911, just in time to get caught in one of the worst hail storms ever to hit the town. The farm they bought was S.E.¼ 20-37-28-W4. He built a sod house there - probably the last one in the Shady Nook district. One horse in the team he bought was balky. One time when coming home from town the horse stopped at the top of the coulee hill by Herb Stewart's farm. Every time he tried to make the horse go ahead, it would back up some more and would have got them into a lot of trouble except that the wagon lodged against some trees.



Sir:-

I beg to enclose herewith a letter from W.H. Stephenson, who homesteaded the N.W. 1/4, 16-38-28-1, in August last. In January he was given an extension of time until the 1st of June, and now he wants a further extension until the 1st of September.

I met Mr. Stephenson, as he mentions in his letter, when he was in Alberta looking for this land, and he impressed me as a very desirable settler himself, with probably very good connections.

If possible, I would suggest the further extension he asks.

Kindly let me have a reply for transmission to Mr. Stephenson, containing his name and address which is Coe Hill, Ontario.

Yours respectfully,

Frank Oliver

They pulled out for the Peace River block of B.C. to Pouce Coupe in 1913.

This family brought back with them the information they had received in Sweden from the Canadian Immigration Department which was pretty close to being fraudulent!

Mr. Strimboldh's parting shot as he was leaving our fair area brought a chuckle to many of the old timers - it was that in his opinion, Alberta was full of barbed wire, hail stones and damn liars.

If he were alive today he would be happy to know we have made progress, as here and there some of the barbed wire has gone.

STROMSON

Lived on S.W. of 4 after Springstien. He was from Chicago. It is not known if he lived there as a renter or owner.



Back Row — Mrs. A. Gehrke, Margaret Stromsen, Mrs. Stromsen, Miss Allen (school teacher), John Gehrke. Front Row — Stromsen, Jr., Sam Gehrke, Mr. Stromsen, Sandy Gehrke, Gilbert Hall.

TEAGUE, GEORGE

George Teague was a farm manager at the Indian School. He lived on the N.W. of 11 for two years.

TENNANT, J. H.

Mr. Tennant started paying taxes in 1924. He was working at the Industrial School but it is not known in what capacity. He paid taxes in 1925 also. Mrs. Tennant paid the taxes the following year and M. H. Tennant in 1927. In 1928 these taxes were paid by D. C. Tennant.

DR. THORNTON

Dr. Thornton, a dentist, came from Ontario and settled on the farm at SW 11-38-W4. His wife passed away shortly after. He had one son Harold, and two daughters Henrietta and Ethel. They worked very hard; the girls milked cows and also drove horses on the plough in the field. Henrietta went back to school and taught when the first war was on, and later married. The girls both went to California. After the family was gone Dr. Thornton rented the farm. Carl Story rented for a while also Mr. Schoch. It was finally sold to Reuben Bollinger who now farms there. Dr. Thornton passed away in California.

WARD, GEORGE AND MILLIE

George and Millie Ward were both from Red Deer. They spent two years at Cygnet as part of the section

crew. They were sent to eastern Alberta, where George was a section foreman for some years. He later went to work as an elevator agent and is now stationed at Lethbridge with another year to go until retirement. Mr. Ward also worked quite a while for Mr. Charlie Blakely.

WANNER, JACOB AND WILHEMENA

Jacob Wanner, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Wanner, was born at Estevan, Saskatchewan. His early years were spent on his parents' farm until he joined the oil industry as a pipeline welder. He lived and worked in the Estevan area until moving to Red Deer.

Wilhemena's foster parents were Mr. and Mrs. Worthy Pierce of Weyburn, Saskatchewan.

Jacob and Wilhemena were married at Weyburn in 1960.

On their arrival in Red Deer they took up residence at the Shady Pine Trailer Court where they lived for the next four years. All this time, they were looking for an acreage in the country. They finally found what they were looking for and purchased the south half of the S.E. ¼ of Sec. 5 from Agnes Anderson. They moved their mobile home out here in 1973 and have since purchased and renovated a house which they are moving into very soon. Jacob and Wilhemena have four children; Devon, born in 1961, Shannon born in 1962, Kerry born in 1969 in Saskatchewan and Nathen born in 1971 in Red Deer. Jake continues to work as a pipeline welder.

WESTERA, TIES AND MARIE

The Westera family came from Holland in July of 1948, sponsored by Mr. and Mrs. Kurt Trachsel of Kuusamo district. "Here we learned a lot about farming and the English language," they write, "It was a very difficult time but we are thankful for all the Trachsels did."

Helen was born in 1949 and shortly thereafter the Westras moved to the Ridgewood district where they worked with Mr. and Mrs. Lachlan Bickley. "They were really good to us and we enjoyed working there."



Ties and Marie Westera sitting. Rolf, Helen, Jack, John and Jane standing.

John was born in 1950 and their second son Rolf in 1952. In April of 1954 they rented a farm in the Tees district, where Jack was born in 1955.

In 1958 they moved to the Shady Nook district where they rented the farm of Mr. Ray Carter, which he had purchased from Ken Gillette. Jane, the youngest, was born in 1959 while they were living here.

In December of 1970 they bought the home quarter of Mr. Fred Pearson (N.E. 31-37-28-W4), and are now actively farming in the district.

Helen is now married to Ralph Pickert and has a home in Red Deer, John married the former Linda Coates. Jack lives with John in Red Deer. Jane still lives at home.

Rolf was married in the spring of 1976 to Jacqueline Touchette. They live in a trailer on the farm and help Ties carry on the business of farming.

WHEELER, MRS.

A Mrs. Wheeler paid taxes to Shady Nook in 1922, and in 1923.

WHITEHEAD, ARTHUR

Arthur Whitehead came from England in 1903, at the age of fifteen years. He lived in Victoria, B.C. where he worked on a farm until he came to Red Deer in 1917. He was married in 1910. He lived on the N.E. ¼ 9-39-28-W4 in the Poplar Ridge district with his young family of three boys and one girl. He farmed and worked on farms until 1919 when he purchased a raw quarter namely the S.E. ¼ 33-37-28-W4 in the Shady Nook district, and began clearing trees before a crop could be raised. He purchased this land from the Saskatchewan Land and Homestead Co. My father farmed this land until 1931 when he passed away suddenly of a heart attack at the age of forty-three years. My mother, with the help of her family, carried on the farm until 1948, when it was sold to Frank Depalme who still owns this land.

My parents had their share of problems. I remember very clearly the epidemic of flu in 1918 when both my parents were in bed for several days with the flu. A neighbour came and brought a part bottle of whiskey and a couple of lemons. They were afraid that they might get the flu also, so they passed it to them through the window. They recovered and us kids were quite happy again.

Then on November 9, 1919, my youngest brother was born. Winter had come with a very large blizzard and snow was three feet deep everywhere. My father was away working so Mother's youngest was born unassisted.

My youngest brother, Lester, lives on a farm near Innisfail. My oldest brother farms at Onaway near Edmonton. Clifford passed away in 1969 as the result of an accident with a piece of heavy equipment. My sister Margaret married Jim McGrandle of the Ridgewood district and now lives in Vancouver, B.C. I live on a farm in the Valley Centre district which is just east of the City of Red Deer. We received all-our education at the Shady Nook school.

My mother was born in Minnesota, U.S.A. in 1890. After selling her farm, she moved to Red Deer and lived there till the time of her passing in 1973, at the age of eighty-three years.

— Arvid Whitehead

WHITSON, H.

Homesteaded the S.W. of 34 on April 5, 1893. The following year he sold his rights to Mr. Wilson.

WHITWORTH, JIM

Jim Whitworth homesteaded S.E. ¼ 16-37-28-W 4th, about 1892.

Not knowing the exact boundaries of his land, he built his house on the wrong quarter. He dealt in horses and for this purpose was fording the river, riding a good horse and leading a pack horse. The water was high and flowing swiftly. His wife stood on the bank watching him. He was a good horseman and an excellent swimmer.

The pack horse he was leading upset the one he was riding and knocked him into the water. He tried to swim to shore, but for some reason, heavy clothes, adverse currents, or cramps, could not make it. He shouted to his wife, "I can't make it. Good-bye," and was drowned. This ford was on the west side of 15-37-28-4.

Lockie Kennedy worked for Mr. Whitworth one winter and said he froze his foot one night while sleeping in bed. Whitworth's daughter was born shortly after he was drowned in 1899 or 1900. The Whitworth house was burnt in a Prairie fire in 1903. In 1918 the daughter sold the Whitworth land to Cliff Braithwaite and left this area.

WICKENS, REG AND IRENE

Reg, a son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Wickens, was raised in Nordegg, Canmore and Red Deer. He was attending school in Red Deer in 1955-56 when he met his future wife, Irene Kind.

They were married in 1959. Irene grew up in the Clearview district, later Kind's moved to Gilby and on to Red Deer. Reg and Irene Wickens lived at Canmore from 1959 to 1963. They moved to Red Deer for two years and came to Shady Nook in 1965 with their two children, John and Colleen.

They lived on the S.W. of 13 until June, 1973, then moved to Red Deer for awhile before moving to Rocky Mountain House where Reg works for the Aquatane Co. They look back on the many good times they had while living here. They say the dances were always great — especially the Halloween dances, as everyone was like one big family. The Christmas concerts were like they were many years ago with the whole family taking part and they always looked forward to the summer picnic and the Bar-B-Qs. Reg's father, Frank, worked in our area in the late 1920's for Murdy McDonald, Sam Wilson and Gerry Sills. Reg is the grandson of one of our earliest teachers, Mrs. Steve Biswanger, nee Nettie Carswell, who taught here in 1907.

WIGGINS, JOHN AND ANNIE

John and Annie Wiggins came from Creemore County, Ontario in 1900. They lived in the Waskasoo district (S.W. of Red Deer) until moving to S.W. 10-38-28-W4 (S. A. Williams homestead) in the fall of 1903. Two children, Harry and Keith were born in Ontario. Pearl was born at Red Deer. Ellis was born in May, 1921 (adopted).

The Wiggins lived in a tent until they built a house. Three small fields were broke when they came, but there were no buildings. They brought some furniture, a plow, two horses and a few cows and small tools from Ontario.



John and Annie Wiggins and family. Harry, Pearl, and Keith.

They broke the land with a VanSlyke plow. Wiggins worked a team of horses and a team of oxen. He had three different teams of oxen in the early days. John established a herd of red poll cattle by buying a bull from Charles Noble of Nobleford, Alberta. The Noble bull weighed 2200 lbs. He bought an imported percheron stallion at a horse sale in Blackfalds and raised his own horses.

In 1920, they bought the E ½ of 3-38-28-W4 and rented the Olson quarter. They worked a twelve-horse team on a four bottom plow and two smaller teams, one on a two bottom plow, the other on a grain drill. John was School Board Chairman, Councillor for M.D. of Golden West for many years and was on the Council at the time of his death on October 6, 1939. Annie passed away in 1959, just under 90 years of age.

Ellis Hall, born May, 1921, made his home with the Wiggins at one month of age. He took his schooling at Shady Nook. He later joined the army. He married overseas. They have three boys, Jeffory, Kent and David. Ellis works as a mechanic for Massey Ferguson Co. in Calgary.

Harry was a railway man all his life, working out of Fort Macleod and Lethbridge. He and his wife Grace are retired and raise chinchillas for a hobby. Pearl married Les Oulton.

WIGGINS, KEITH AND HELEN

Keith was born in Creemore County, Ontario, and came to the Waskasoo district with his parents in 1900. In 1903 Wiggins moved to Shady Nook. Thirty-six acres on the S.W. of 10 were broken when they bought it.

Keith's one big trip when he was young was a trip to Vancouver by bicycle! They sold the bikes there and rode the freight trains home.

The S.E. ¼ of 3 was owned by Keith and he later took over the home farm. In 1939, Keith married Helen McComb of Huxley, a school teacher, and the next year he bought Otto Fluh's quarter. The Wigginses lived on the Fluh ¼ for 3 years. During those 3 years Keith bought grain at Mintlaw elevator for the Searle Grain Co.



Kerry, Glenda, Cliff, Keith, Helen, Lorne, and Jill Wiggins.

Five children were born to Helen and Keith.

Their daughter Glenda married E. H. Knight, Executive Director of Calgary General Hospital; they have two girls, Carolyn and Patricia and one son, Brett.

Jill married Bill Edgar and they farm in the Burnt Lake district; they have one daughter, Lorrie.

The boys were Lorne, Cliff and Kerry. Kerry graduated from U of A and has a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology. Keith passed away in May of 1973. Helen lives in a new house on the home farm and works at Burnett Plumbing and Heating in Red Deer.

WIGGINS, LORNE AND JACKIE

Lorne, eldest son of Keith and Helen, after finishing school became an electrician and an avid curler. In 1971 he married a former school teacher, Miss Jackie Ellis of Brooks. Jackie was teaching at the Oriole Park School in Red Deer.

Lorne and Jackie live in the big brick house on the Wiggins farm and they have a son John and a daughter, Michelle.

Lorne farms with his brother Cliff.

WIGGINS, CLIFF AND PATRICIA

Cliff, the second son of Keith and Helen, has spent most of his time since finishing school farming. He bought the acreage on the N.E. 9 and the rest of that quarter some time later.

He married Helen Gibbon of Innisfail. They have two daughters, Brenda and Janice. In 1975, he married Patricia Turner who was teaching school in Red Deer.

WILLETT, MILES AND ANNIE

Miles Robert Willett married Annie Elizabeth Fallow, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Fallow of New Richmond, Quebec, in that town sometime in 1907. In April of 1910, Miles along with the menfolk of some related families came to Red Deer. The ladies and children joined them in Red Deer in the fall of the same year.

Annie with her two year old son, Bert, and infant son Archie, after a few days rest at the Fallows home in Red Deer, came to the Willett farm in Shady Nook. The farm was the N.W. of 4. A real disappointment to the family was the loss of seven month old baby Archie, who passed away enroute to the Red Deer Hospital. Annie lost her father in 1912 and her mother in 1914.



Miles and Annie, Bert and Art Willett, about 1917.

The Willets lived only three years on the farm before selling out to Lars Soderberg and moving into North Red Deer. Another son, Arthur, born in 1915 passed away with pneumonia three and one half months after his marriage to Lennia Didrikson of Wetaskiwin in 1935. Miles Willett joined the Great West Lumber Co. and worked as a teamster around the mill and hauled logs until the mill closed in 1917. He was put in charge of dismantling the mill and buildings. After a stay of one year spent building houses at Nordegg, the family moved into a house near the north end of the railway bridge north of the river in Red Deer.

Miles worked at road construction for the Provincial Government from 1918 until the onset of a terminal illness in 1932. Annie continued living in Red Deer and passed away at 85 years in 1965. Bert recalls having a dog named "Guess" which he broke to harness and was very proud of having won a dog sled race. However, he got into some trouble with his teacher who asked the name of the dog. She at first thought he was being very impertinent.

Bert married Grace Locke of Red Deer and they raised two daughters Shirley — Mrs. Raymond Wilson



Bert Willett and "Guess".

formerly of Red Deer and now of Sylvan Lake, and Loree — Mrs. Gary Shannon of Red Deer.

Bert, except for two years in the construction industry at Vancouver, spent his life in Red Deer. He worked at odd jobs during the worst of the depression, then started a dray business delivering coal and lumber for the Atlas Lumber Co. He had one of the early model International trucks which became a familiar sight around town. Later he bought a 1946 International with a dump box and became quite professional at unloading lumber in neat piles with only the use of the hoist. Bert passed away in November of 1975. Grace has worked for many years as a Stenographer at the Court House in Red Deer.

WILLIAMS, DANNY

Danny was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Eyton Williams and lived most of his early life in Shady Nook. He spent a lot of his time at the Raymer farm. Dan was a short, well-built fellow, pleasant, genial and good company, but had quite a strong aversion to work.

Dan played baseball and hockey for Shady Nook during some of the 1920's and all the 1930's. In the fall of 1939 he joined the Calgary Highlanders Regiment. After the war he worked at the Cerebral Palsy Clinic in Edmonton. Dan never married. He died in 1964.



Mrs. Eyton Williams and sister Louise Biswanger.

WILLIAMS, EYTON AND JOSEPHINE

Mr. Williams filed for a homestead on the SW of 14-38-28-W4 on August 20, 1889.

A Welshman from Nova Scotia, he was married to Josephine Biswanger. They had two children, Hattie and Dan. In 1900 he returned to Wales for one year.

There is mention, in the archives at Red Deer, of a man named Williams who occasionally travelled through the Red Deer area during the early 1880's. It was probably Eyton as he was involved in the mining industry. Williams abandoned his wife and family in favour of a trapline and an Indian maid in the north country. Josephine moved to the Aberdeen district east of Innisfail in 1920. Hattie now lives in Calgary.

WILLIAMS, LLOYD

Williams lived a few years on the S.W. of 14-38-28-W4. An elderly English butler, named Fred Small kept house for him. Lloyd fed pigs and whenever he went to the neighbours to buy chop he always said "I come for some more provender."

WILLIAMS, WAYNE AND LINDA

Wayne and Linda (nee Best) came to Red Deer in June, 1971 from Edmonton, as Wayne had been in Red Deer in 1963 and liked the Red Deer area because he is an avid fisherman and hunter. When he decided to open his own barber shop he chose Red Deer and lived in that city until January, 1974. They then decided to move to the country as by this time they had acquired some horses. The place they moved to was the former home of Mr. and Mrs. C. R. Braithwaite, which was originally part of the Jim Braithwaite farm. They lived here for two years and have since moved across the Red Deer River to



Gaye and Dawn Williams.

the Penhold area and the farm of Bill Wyntjes, formerly the Harry Leader family farm.

Wayne is still working in Red Deer as owner-operator of Sir's Hairstyling.

Wayne and Linda have two children: Dawn born in 1970 and Gaye born in 1973.

WILSON, SAM AND LORINDA

In 1919 Samuel Frederick Wilson purchased the S.E.¼ 15-28-38-W4 from Johnny Martin and Murdy McDonald. He moved a house out there from north Red Deer, one of the many moved out from there to make farm homes for the soldier settlers as well as others. In Dec. 1921 he married Lorinda Sills of the Ridgewood district and they made their home on this farm for several years. While they were here their three children were born, Lorene, Milton and Iveigh.

In 1928 they bought the N½-33-28-37-W4, from George Jenkins, built a house and moved there. The children attended the Shady Nook School. They like their father were very talented in music and the family provided the music for community dances for a number of years. Sam had learned to play both accordion and violin as a small child, while he was lying in bed recuperating from rheumatic fever.

Sam was also known for his horses, always having a nice driving team and participating in the horse races at local picnics.

In 1935 the Wilsons bought a house in Red Deer and Mrs. Wilson moved in so that the children could attend high school. Sam continued to work the farm until the family moved to Wainwright in 1942, where Sam worked on construction of the Wainwright Army Camp.

Following the end of the war and Milton's return from overseas the family moved to Calgary where Sam and Milton worked together in construction of houses.

In 1956 Sam and Lorinda returned to farming first at Midnapore and in 1960 at Okotoks. It was there that Sam passed away in June 1970 while working in the field. Later that same year Lorinda sold the farm and moved to Calgary and in 1973 she went to Kelowna where she continues to make her home.

Their family are all married. Lorene and her second husband John Petro have retired on a farm in Leslieville.



Standing — Lorene and Iveigh. Seated — Sam, Milton and Lorinda Wilson.

Music continues to play a major role in their lives, they have a very popular dance band in Calgary. There are three children, all married: Richard, Rodney, and Rhonda; and two grandchildren.

Milton and his wife Verna live in Penticton, B.C. where Milton is road inspector for the Federal Government. There are three children, Dianne and Danny both married and Barbara at home, and two grandchildren.

Iveigh and her husband Elmer Erban live in Ritzville, Washington. There are two children, Michael who is married and Laurie at home.

WILTON, ROY AND GRACE

Roy Wilton was born in Howe, Wisconsin, in 1896. He came to Red Deer with his family in 1904 and later homesteaded northwest of Delburne. He took his schooling in Red Deer and at Great Bend. Roy served in the army in 1917-18 but didn't go overseas.

In 1943, he married Muriel Grace Ettinger of Delburne. They raised a family of six children. Their oldest son Elden married Elaine Letourneau of Red Deer and live at Manning. Fraser is married and lives in Toronto. Both work in electronics. Leonard works in Forestry at Rocky Mountain House. Tim married Judy Becker and is a journeyman welder in Red Deer. Laura Lynn married Brian Jackson from New Brunswick and they live in Red Deer. Their youngest daughter Betty is a stenographer.

The Wilton family farmed at Delburne until 1963 when Roy retired from farming. They bought an acreage near the Indian School Lot E - S.W. 13-38-28-W4. Mrs. Wilton is a psychiatric nurse at Ash-Deerhome.

WOOD, AL AND PHYLLIS

Al was the last elevator man in Shady Nook. He came to Mintlaw in 1947 and was here until the Searle Grain Co. closed the elevator in 1951. Al was raised at Elnora, Alberta, and after he left our district, he married a nurse from Nova Scotia, who was working at the Elnora hospital.

Al was an elevator man at Delburne for a year or two, then was transferred to Stettler.

Wood's have two boys, Ian and Dugal. They had the misfortune of losing their little daughter, Kitty.

WRIGHT, DON AND MAUDIE

Don was born and raised in Red Deer; he is the second son of George and Lennie Wright. Maudie was born in Ponoka and moved to Red Deer at the age of two with her parents, Clifford and Esther Kellington.

Don and Maudie were married in May of 1958 and lived for four years in Red Deer. They moved to the Shady Nook area in the fall of 1962, bringing a four-room house and two young daughters with them; Shelley then nineteen months old, and Cheryl seven months old. Don was working at that time for deGroot Brothers Plumbing in Red Deer.

In February of 1964 their son Reg was born. This filled their small house completely. In May of that year Don left the plumbing trade and started work at the Red Deer Post Office where he has been employed ever since.

In the spring of 1966 they remodelled the house adding two bedrooms and enlarging the kitchen.

April of 1967 brought them a new baby girl, their third daughter, Wendy.

In December of 1969 their fifth and last child was born, another girl, Karen, now six. Once again their home is filled to capacity.

In the fourteen years that they have lived in the Shady Nook District (S.E. 16-38-28-W 4th) they have tried their hand at raising pigs, a few cattle, and a few hens.

YARBROUGH, ALTON AND EDITH

Alton Yarbrough was born in Gonzales County, Texas on June 27, 1911. He was the fourth son of David and Zadie of Yorktown, Texas. He came with his family to Canada in 1919. They crossed the border at Emerson, Manitoba on November 19, 1919. They spent that night in the station at Winnipeg waiting for their train to come west. A family by the name of Langley came with them. The boys of both families were wearing heavy boots, bought for them to come to a cold country. They were having a game of marbles on the floor when the janitor lady made them stop as the boots were marking the lovely marble floor. They came on to Calgary the next day in a bad snowstorm, a real experience for all of them!

Alton had started school in Texas then went to the South School in Red Deer when they got here. On weekends he helped a man by the name of Mr. Kidwell deliver stove wood around the town. Alton's father worked for a Mr. O'Connors. They went out in the country and cut wood, sawed it in stove lengths and split it.

The Yarbrough family moved to the Ridgewood district in the spring of 1920, later moving to the Pine Hill district. Alton worked at different jobs. One winter he delivered meat in Red Deer with a horse and sleigh for Mr. Ball, the butcher. Sometimes when it was real cold the pony would run around the block by herself to warm up. When Alton would come out of the house where he was delivering meat, the pony would be coming back.

Alton had room and board with a lady by the name of Mrs. Card. The brick house is still standing.

Most of the time Alton worked on farms. He always had a team hauling bundles on a threshing outfit in the fall. Most falls it was the Silverbergs outfit. There was a



Edith and Alton Yarbrough.

crew of nine men. They had a bunk house and moved from one farm to the next. They had a lot of fun in that old bunkhouse when the day's work was done.

Alton married Edith Silverberg on December 2, 1937. They farm in the Shady Nook District. They have one son, Lloyd. He and his family also live on the farm. Lloyd married Marian Sinclair and they have four children; Peggy, Boyd, Cheryl and Frances. He is an electrician and works in the oil fields and gas plants. Lloyd also farms with his father. The children go to school by bus to River Glen School in Red Deer.

YARBROUGH, LLOYD AND MARIAN

Lloyd Yarbrough, son of Alton and Edith Yarbrough, was born June 19, 1940, in Red Deer. He lived with his parents in the Ridgewood district, received his schooling at Ridgewood, River Glen, and Lindsay Thurber Comp. Later he attended S.A.I.T., where he received a first class Electrician certificate.

He married Marian Sinclair, whom he met while she was attending Henderson's Secretarial School in Red Deer. Her previous education was received at Strachan and Rocky Mountain House. Marian, the daughter of William and Clarice Sinclair, was born Nov. 2, 1940, in Rocky Mountain House. Mr. Sinclair emigrated from Caithness County, Scotland with his parents in August of 1928 at the age of 18 years. They homesteaded in the Cow Creek community west of Rocky where Will met his future bride Clarice Thompson, who had come with her Canadian step father and war bride mother from Windsor, England in September 1919. Her natural father had been killed in action in April of 1918.

The Sinclairs farmed in the Strachan area and later retired to Rocky Mountain House where Will is involved with the local school board.

Lloyd and Marian Yarbrough were married in Red Deer, April 25, 1959. They lived in Red Deer, and later Rocky Mtn. House where Lloyd had an electrical business. Lloyd and family moved from Rocky to his father's farm in 1974, where he farms and works for



Lloyd and Marian, Boyd, Cheryl, Frances and Peggy Yarbrough.

Sparrow Electric Ltd. Lloyd and Marian have four children, Peggy, born October 10, 1959; Boyd, born May 21, 1961; Cheryl, born November 10, 1962; and Frances, born July 14, 1964. The children presently attend River Glen and Lindsay Thurber Comp. schools.

ODDS AND ENDS OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND CORRECTIONS

In 1929 Sandy Curr drove a team in the democrat race at the Red Deer Fair. One horse was Redwing owned by Sam Wilson, the other Tex, owned by Pete Lutz. Sandy won the race.

During the Second World War and after, several plane crashes occurred in our area at the following locations: near the Indian School on the S.E. 21; S.W. corner of the S.E. 28; on the east side of S.E. 16. One plane crashed in the river when it was fairly high. George Braithwaite with help from brother Jim and Frank Johnson succeeded in bringing the pilot to shore shortly after the crash. The plane sat in the river for several days because the airforce salvage crew could not get out to it to secure a line. Finally a rubber boat was flown in from Winnipeg to accomplish the task. The only other crash we are aware of took place on the S.E. of 3.



Flying accident, 1955.

Most of our earliest settlers were from Nova Scotia in 1889 and 1890. In 1893 and 1894 some arrived from Sweden and the U.S.A. The next group from 1900 to 1903 were from Ontario and the U.S.A. European immigrants other than Scandinavians did not come until after the first war.

Reverend Nelson, the first principal of the Indian School, was formerly principal of the Methodist Mission School at Wilf Creek, located near Pigeon Lake. He was transferred here along with some of the staff from that school after it burned down in 1890.

Doctor Thornton did considerable work as an amateur veterinarian and he enjoyed doing it. The Provincial Government cancelled his license to practice dentistry because of his refusal to desist from treating sick animals.

The Strimboldh family was related to C. P. Cronquist.

Both the maternal and paternal grandparents of Elaine (Mrs. John Braithwaite nee Untershultz — came from Austria to homestead at Stony Plain in 1901.

The high water mark for the Red Deer river was established in June 1915. The next highest level occurred in the very wet year of 1954. It was about 18 inches lower than the record.

An ice jam on the river one night caused the water and ice flows to come close enough to the George Butler residence that they sat up through the night, so as to be ready to vacate if necessary.

Mrs. George Butler, a First World War bride says that her first batch of homemade bread was so heavy that she threw it in the river and that it lies there on the bottom to this day, exactly where she threw it!

Mrs. Plummer spent the last eleven years of her life living in Red Deer.

Pete Lutz was the first farmer in our area to have a John Deere tractor equipped with controls to enable one man to operate both the tractor and the binder.

S. A. Williams who homesteaded S.W. of 10 in 1900 was a brother of Eytan Williams who homesteaded the S.W. of 14 in 1890.

Some of the piers under the A.C.R. bridge across the Red Deer have deteriorated so that heavily loaded trains now creep across at 2 or 3 miles per hour. This line is expected to be abandoned in the near future.

One cold day during the war years, Sam Gehrke was out of coal. He drove 10½ miles with a team and sleigh to Red Deer to get a load. Coal was in short supply in Red Deer during that cold snap and they had suddenly found it necessary to ration coal. Sam was allowed to buy 18 lbs. The temperature that day was —53 degrees F.

Norman Faudry was related to the Clauson family. He took up homestead land beside Clausons in 1894.

The following families have left our district during 1976: Al and Judy North to R.R. No. 1, Rimbey; Dan and Janet Scarr to Red Deer; Don and Doris McAllister to Willowdale district; Ron and Lil Didier to Rocky Mountain House; Loren and Laura Blain to Lacombe District.

Mrs. August Gehrke submitted the name that was accepted for our school, Shady Nook. It was built on a

bald spot that had no shade at all for at least the next 33 years.

The log stopping house north of the Red Deer crossing was dismantled in the late 1930's. The logs were sawn into firewood and sold to customers in Red Deer.

In 1969 the Governor General's Medal was won by Faye Robinson, (daughter of Mrs. Irene (Robinson) Bayford and the late Clifford Robinson) for the City of Red Deer. Linda Braithwaite won the A.T.A. trophy for the top grade 9 at Riverglen the same year.

In 1971, the A.T.A. trophy and the Governor General's medal were won by Laurie Braithwaite for the county of Red Deer. Linda and Laurie are daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Jim Braithwaite. In 1972, which was the last year of grade 9 departmental examinations in Alberta, the A.T.A. trophy and the Governor General's medal were won by Marilyn Moore, (daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bartlett Moore) for the county of Red Deer.

HALE AND WILSON

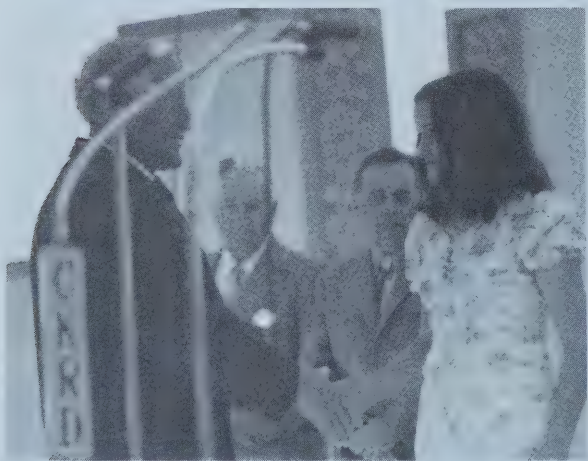
Hale and Wilson lived on the S.W.¼ 34-37-28-4. Wilson homesteaded this quarter in 1894 and built the log house which stood there until 1967. It was the oldest surviving house of the early days in this area. Many people lived on this place over the years.

Wilson left in 1896. Charles Wright bought his farm for \$200 in 1897. Wright also homesteaded S.E. 34. He was a musician who was quite eccentric, who moved to Red Deer in 1904. Springstein and Murray were there in 1906. Archie Fead, Carson and Merry and Lockie Kennedy were all there at one time or other by 1909. Others who lived on these two quarters since then are Alban Smith and family, John Newton, John Lutz, Glen Lutz, G. Braithwaite and Lorne Blain. Armitages now own the S.W.¼ and Blain, the S.E. A much traded parcel!

"AS I RECALL" — THE RUNAWAY — By Boyd Yarbrough

It was a clear, sunny, but cool March morning in 1932, and everyone was up early to do chores because that was the day for a trip to town for supplies. When the chores were done, Alton Yarbrough hitched the team, Babe and Baldy, to Tom Armstrong's democrat and the group, consisting of Alton, Joe Griffith, and Grace and Edith Silverberg left the Oscar Silverberg farm and headed for town. About a mile east of home they came upon Jim Armstrong, aged 12, waiting to go to town with them as he was suffering with a toothache. Instead of riding in the democrat he wanted to ride his saddle horse.

Everything went smoothly until they were crossing the Gaetz Avenue bridge over the Red Deer River. About one-half the way across, one of those colossal inventions, a big red truck, pulled up behind them. Not able to pass, he blew the horn. This spooked Jim's horse. The horse reared up, thrusting its front feet into the democrat, pushing the seat ahead which caused Alton and Edith to be thrown forward into the traces and onto the bridge. Luckily, all four traces broke loose. Alton, still holding the reins and trying to get the horses under control, was dragged on his knees across the bridge. When Jim's horse reared, he fell off, however his foot was caught in the stirrup, so the horse, dragging him, head down on the cement, went across the bridge. Edith called to Alton to let



Governor General Roland Michener presenting Marilyn Moore with the bronze medal for highest grade nine standing in the county of Red Deer, 1972. Cliff Doan and Bob Thompson in the background.

the team go and catch Jim's horse. He immediately dropped the reins, staggered to his feet, and jumped for the bridle of Jim's horse. The animal veered away from him, causing Jim's foot to fall free of the stirrup. The disarrayed group shook themselves off and limped across the bridge to town.

When George Orme, an old friend to the family, heard the running horses, he ran out of his residence at the Red Deer Funeral Home and made an effort to stop them, but failed. It was a serious runaway, but a sudden thought of Orme looking for business, tickled Edith's irrepressible sense of humour.

As the team thundered through town, several people lined up across the street to try to block the runaways, but the team broke apart and Baldy took to the sidewalk while Babe went right through the crowd at top speed. The horses then cut west out of town on the old highway.

Alton walked to Paul Crawford's service station and Paul and Alton then took Paul's car and went after the team.

The horses, in their wild frenzy to escape civilization, ran across the train tracks just seconds ahead of the train. Babe being in the lead, was relatively safe but the train just missed Baldy's tail.

Paul and Alton proceeded west on the old highway and found Babe tied up at the Cronquist house. They left her there and went after Baldy. There were fresh tracks on the road, so they followed these.

Sam Edwards and his son were putting greenfeed bundles in the loft on their farm southwest of town when they heard the running horse. The two ran out to the highway to stop the horse. They caught him and tied him to a fence post, then gave him a bundle to eat. The horse was enjoying his bundle immensely when Alton and Paul came upon the scene.

Alton rode Baldy back to the Cronquist house, picked up Babe, and took them to the tie sheds in the back of Kovacs'. After repairing the harness and democrat at Goodies', Alton had to buy a new pair of pants because the knees of his others were on the bridge. The whole repair bill came to \$8.00. Jim, still being quite shook up, rode on Edith's bruised and battered knees on the trip home, his horse tied behind.

After this very eventful day, they returned at nine in the evening with nothing to show for the trip to town except a new pair of pants for Alton and various bruises.

"AS I RECALL" — Told by Margaret Jensen

I knew the way to a man's heart was through his stomach and how better to get there than with freshly baked buns!

I poured hot water on the yeast and killed it. It wouldn't rise and it wouldn't thicken. After adding flour a few times and seeing nothing happen I admitted defeat. I took the dough out to the pig pasture and threw it away.

While my husband, Harry was doing chores that evening he checked the pigs. Out in the pasture, he found a sow in real trouble. She was gagging and gasping for breath. He could not imagine what was wrong. Upon looking around he spied the dough. It had firmed up and grown tacky in the sun. When the pig tried to eat it, it had stuck in its mouth and throat. He reached in and was able to remove enough dough so that the pig could breathe again.

When he came in for supper he inquired how the day had gone for me. I replied, "Oh, quite well, I did this and that and so on." Harry, with a twinkle in his eye, asked, "How did you make out baking buns?"

Oh yes, those stories about newly-wed cooking are true and they can happen to anyone.

AS I RECALL — told by Reuben Bollinger

It happened one summer early in our career of farming on the Thornton place. There was an old dilapidated barn on this farm which was ready to fall down. We propped it up with a stout pole. It housed our chickens, pigs and the milk cow.

One day we had the cow tethered to the prop. A salesman came to see me and when he walked around the corner of the barn, he startled the cow. The barn yard exploded.

The cow yanked the prop free, the roof fell in, as one wall collapsed. Pigs ran out from everywhere squealing for all they were worth. Chickens squawked and flew amid a cloud of feathers and dust. The cow, with her tail in the air, took off across the field. The dog ran the opposite direction and the salesman raced for his car. I guess he forgot what he had come to see me about, because he never came back.

"AS I RECALL" — Told by Les Oulton

Some time in the 1930's Les Oulton bought a pair of work boots from the Gaetz and Brumpton Store. He wore them around the barnyard for two weeks. One day he and his wife were sitting around resting after grinding and unloading a load of chop. Pearl noticed that the soles of the boots were different. They were not mates. The next time Les was in town he moseyed over to the store and told Gaetz he had sold him odd boots and he thought they should be replaced with a new pair. The old Indian trader said, "Good Heavens, look at what is on them, I can't sell those to any one." After some humorous discussion, Les accepted a refund of fifty cents and kept the odd shoes. These two old smoothies had enjoyed bargaining for what amounted to two hours of pay.

"AS I RECALL" — by Jim Braithwaite

Mickey, my father's favorite saddle horse, was a pale buckskin with a black mane and tail — a solid compact horse, the type later developed as the quarter horse breed. He rode this pony for 12 years. Nothing snubbed to the saddle horn ever took him off his feet, be it a wild cow or bronco. It was used for a pickup horse at local stampedes. Perhaps the most unusual job the horse had was to run in the loose, deep snow, so my father could indulge in one of his favorite sports, roping coyotes. On a good go he could produce two, and on one occasion he caught three in an afternoon. Mickey was sold to Rex Creelman in 1920. Creelman was still riding him in 1924 and during the 16 years this fine horse had never fallen with a rider.

In the early summer of 1908 the work horses strayed across the river to eat the greener grass on the other side. Dad tracked them to the southeast. When he lost the tracks he began enquiring about them. He worked his way down the old Calgary-Edmonton Trail, as far as the Westholme District. He called on his friends the Whitesides. Yes, they had seen his horses on the hay flats south of Penhold. After a visit and dinner he gathered the

horses and started home. Dad brought them to the river on the run. Instead of following the road to the ford, they swung due west on a narrow survey line and headed for a cut-bank. The river was moderately high and it was deep by the shore. The bunch of horses couldn't stop. There were too many, going too fast on the narrow path. When they reached the bank they leaped as far out as they could and dropped eight feet into the water. Down they went, bobbed to the surface and swam for the far shore. Dad gave his pony free rein as it continued towards the bank, and, without a falter or break in step, Mickey leaped into the river. When they hit bottom only Dad's head was above water. Just for the heck of it he had tested the mettle of his pony and gone for a thrilling ride.

John Anderson, one of the neighbours who was looking for Dad, stood on the west bank. He said the horses plunging into the river was the most spectacular sight he had ever seen.

"AS I RECALL" — Told by Andy Nyman

John Nyman's hen house stood at the edge of a clearing. There were some trees between it and the residence. It was occasionally the target of the chicken thieves.

One night the chickens were making a lot of noise. John went outside with the shotgun. A man was running across the clearing with a full bag. Three shots were fired in the thief's direction. In the morning the bag of chickens was still there. All the chickens had been shot.

Nyman guessed that the thief would be a free wheeler — with his new set of ball bearing joints!

"AS I RECALL" — Frank Bayford

While clearing a piece of land, we disturbed a coyote den. The mother coyote hastily removed her pups to a new den part way up the side of an old straw stack. We knew the straw would burn when we fired the brush piles, so we took the tiny pups home to the loft of our barn. A mother cat that had just had a batch of kittens nursed the pups until they were twice as big as she was. She worked very hard to catch enough mice and gophers and to drag them into their pen!

As the coyotes grew older they became aggressive. The cat no longer dared go into their "den". She continued to haul her catch to the loft, waiting until Les would come to feed the pups, and then she would bring them in.

One day one of the coyotes leaped at Les and bit him in the face. Before we got around to killing them, a neighbour's child let one get away. It paid us back over the next two years by taking nearly all our hens. The neighbours' losses were also placed at our doorstep. This coyote was very sly and successful at its occupation, and also in avoiding destiny. I did, however, successfully put a finish to this pesky coyote one day when I spotted him as he stood beside the barn and did not miss my opportunity of taking a shot at him.

"AS I RECALL" — by Orville Gehrke

My Granddad, August Gehrke, never drove a car in his life. He owned a Chrysler car (1927) but always had someone drive him.

My Aunt Anne had to take their car to a garage in Red Deer for repairs, which would take four or five days. My Granddad decided he would drive his car in to bring Aunt Annie home. Annie drove Granddad's car, with Granddad down to our place and he was to take off from

here. Take off he did! He managed to get the car into gear after nine or ten stalls, and with the gas to the floor, he went out our gate, across the road, through the fence into the neighbour's field, back through the fence and stalled when he hit the ditch. That was his first and last time of driving a car!

AS I RECALL — Told by Griff Mayhew

A tale of tit for tat.

In the early 1930's, Sam Wilson pastured his horses on a quarter he owned — N.E. of 15. They often broke into Mayhew's crop. Once when Griff went to chase them out, one horse was reluctant to get up. Griff stood behind the horse and gave it two or three swift kicks where he thought it would do the most good. It got the horse up alright — but in a very nasty mood! It laid its ears back and began backing up towards him. Griff backed up too; however the horse backed up some more. By this time Griff realized the horse was backing up faster than he was. He turned to run and just as he turned the horse kicked, and planted its hind feet right on target just under Griff's hip pockets. Fortunately the horse was satisfied to even the score and let it go at that. It left the field with the rest of the herd.

AS I RECALL — by George Belich

During a religious discussion, Mr. Jim Wright, who was a member of the Church of England, told Nick Belich that he felt the Virgin Mary was no different than his own mother, an ordinary person. On their next meeting, Nick reported this to Norman McLeod (staunch Catholic). Mr. McLeod pondered this, pulled on his pipe a while and then remarked, "Ach, that may well be, but go ye back and tell Jim Wright there is a hullova difference in the two sons!"

During the thirties it was common practice for those milking cows to destroy all new bull calves as it did not pay to raise them. However, it was decided to save a certain calf which proved to be very stubborn and refused to drink milk from a pail. Albert Schwartz who is now a retired C.P.R. engineer was working for Nick Belich. During the morning chores, Albert failed to find this calf.

"Nick, where is the new calf?" he said.

"Never mind," said Nick. "I fed him".

"I know you fed him but where is he?" "Oh, I fed him to the pigs".

The wheel of supply and demand has turned full circle and once again young dairy calves are being destroyed. A shameful practice resulting from economic circumstances beyond the control of the producer.

THE BULL'S LAMENT — Anonymous

It was evening in Alberta
And the sun was sinking low
On the pastures and the grasslands
Where the cool sou-westers blow
But a shadow dimmed the picture
There was tragedy and grief,
The Government boys in Ottawa
Promoted Oceanic beef.

The rancher is bewildered
With a frown upon his brow
"They have sold us down the river
And I'll have to quit it now."

Whelan says beef is dangerous
Air Canada has passed us by,
The consumer picks the cheap cuts
And the packers' milk us dry.

The old bull stands upon the hill
From his eye there drips a tear
My boss has sold off all the cows
And soon I'll be a steer.
He's paying more for fodder
Than most folks pay for gas,
The banker keeps foreclosing
And the drought has hurt the grass.

I think I'll travel southward,
And cross the border line
And hope that Jimmy Carter
Will be a bit more kind.
I'll settle down in comfort
As seasons come and go
And forget about old Canada
'Cuz bulls are just for show!

"AS I RECALL" — Jim Braithwaite

During the fall of about 1934 the Braithwaite and Evans families got together to butcher turkeys. All the Evans turkeys were readied for market. The Braithwaites

left one bird to provide a Thanksgiving dinner for the two families. The dinner was to be at the Braithwaite home.

The day before Thanksgiving we went to catch the turkey. It flew just above the ground down towards the river. We thought it would land in the field not far away. We watched with surprise to see how far it was going. When it approached the trees on the bank, instead of landing, it started climbing to the sky. Up and up it went, until it was a couple hundred feet in the air. It crossed the river, where Walter Evans was in the yard doing chores. He saw a large bird flying in from the west but was unable to determine what kind it was. He stood there full of curiosity, turning to surprise, as it glided down to land in his yard. Then he began to laugh, for he realized it was the Braithwaites' only turkey!

At sunset he watched as it went into the poultry house. Then he butchered the bird. That evening he forded the river — just to see how Thanksgiving dinner was shaping up on Braithwaite's side of the river. As he approached our house, he saw Mrs. Braithwaite sitting on the step thoroughly provoked, furiously plucking away at two scrawny hens.

He could hardly talk for laughing. His mirth became infectious — it was pretty funny after all. As usual, all was well: Evans enjoyed inviting the Braithwaites over to eat their own Thanksgiving turkey.

*Transferred from
W. & C. Thatcher. No. 2795.*

PROVINCE OF ALBERTA

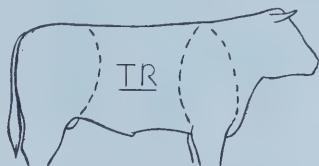
OFFICE OF THE RECORDER OF BRANDS

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

MEDICINE HAT, ALTA.

B. M. 1098

Extracts from Record of Brands, L. K. F. 284 No. 6162...



POSITION RIGHT *Rebs*

RECORDED VENT (IF ANY)

NAME OF OWNER *J. P. Anderson*

POST OFFICE ADDRESS *Evarts, Alta.*

DATE OF RECORD *11th September 1906*

I, the undersigned, Recorder of Brands, hereby certify that the above is a true and correct extract from the Record of Brands kept under the authority of The Brand Ordinance of the North-West Territories and amendments thereto, as it appeared on the *11th September* day of *Sept*, A.D. 1907.
Medicine Hat, Alta., *12th Sept* 1907.

James Deason
Recorder of Brands

J. P. Anderson brand.

0165

GOVERNMENT OF THE NORTH-WEST TERRITORIES OF CANADA

OFFICE OF THE RECORDER OF BRANDS

Extract from Record of Brands, L. E., F. 58, No. 678...

DESCRIPTION OF BRAND.

£D

RECORDED FOR

Cattle on left hip.

ALLOTTED TO

Geo A Braithwaite
Red Deer

DATE OF ALLOTMENT.

June 2, 1899

I, the undersigned, Recorder of Brands, hereby certify that the above is a true and correct extract from the Record of Brands kept by me under the authority of The Brand Ordinance.

Regina,

April 23, 1900.

George A. Braithwaite
Recorder of Brands.

George A. Braithwaite brand.

SHADY NOOK BRANDS

R or LH
A
D
J. D. Braithwaite

LR
2Y
Bill Anderson

LT (H)
T
7
Bill Anderson

RR
TR
J. P. Anderson
1906
Ted Anderson
RR

LH
Z
Armitage Farms

LH
2A
Armitage Farms

LH
D3
C. R. Braithwaite
1920

LS (H)
68
C. R. Braithwaite
1920

LH
ED
Geo. A. Braithwaite
1899

LH
B5
Geo. W. Braithwaite

RR
F
Frank Depalme

RH
QD
Mrs. Bertha Galt

RH
MD
Donald Morrison

LH
3N
George and Don
Ninkovich

LR
23
John Nyman
1903

LT (H)
CR
John Nyman

RR.RS
~
Andrew Nyman

RS RT (H)
~
Andrew Nyman

R or LH
J
Red Deer Feeders

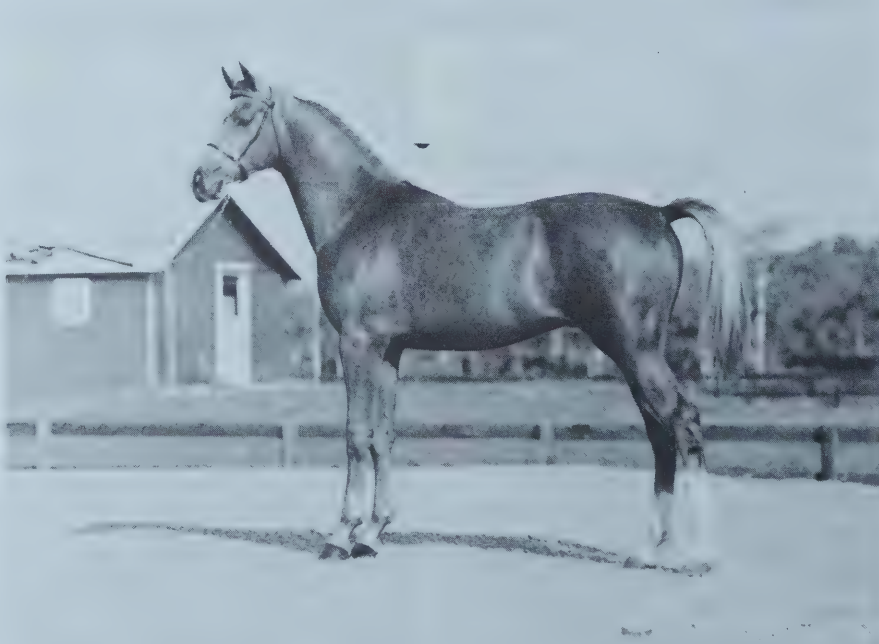
LR
AS
A. G. Schoch

LR
YX
Carl Silverberg

LT (H)
CX
Carl Silverberg

LH (H)
Y
X
Oscar Silverberg

LT (H)
CX
Geo. H. Silverberg



LH
Y
X
Guy Silverberg

LR
YX
Geo. H. Silverberg

RR
K.K.
JE
C. J. E. Johanson

RR
HR
John Wiggins
and Sons

WA
IPU
John Silverberg
1900

DR. GARY BOTTING'S NEW
ARABIAN STALLION, SUPERCHARGE AS
YEARLING, 1976.

LT (H)
Y
John Silverberg
1900

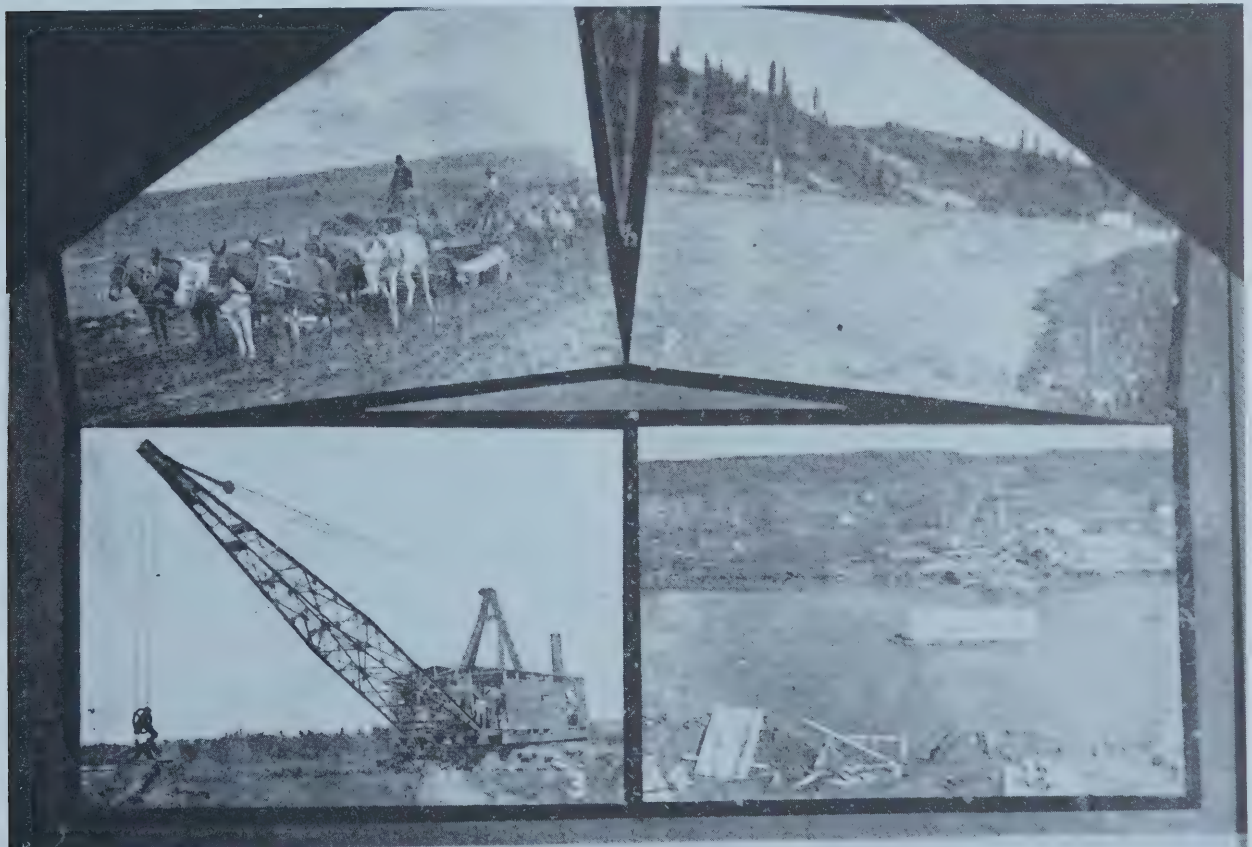
LH
Y
X
Oscar Silverberg



Survey crew for ACR bridge. Cooks helper second from right is Keith Wiggins.



Ice leaving the river spring 1947. Bridge at Red Deer.



EXCAVATING MACHINE ON THE A.C.R.

Four horses pushing and eight pulling

D. TREDWAY & SON, Contractors

2. SUSPENSION BRIDGE

445 feet long, across the Red Deer river, near site of A.C.R. Bridge, constructed by Engineer Dawe, for convenience of contractors.

3. DRAG LINE EXCAVATOR

at present being used to drain Burnt Lake.

Contract in charge of D. TREDWAY & SON

4. BRIDGE ON

Approximately 100 feet high, 110 feet long.

JACKSON & CO. LTD. (S.S.)

1 — Mules; 2 — Suspension bridge; 3 — steam powered drag line; 4 — piers for the A.C.R. bridge.



The river in flood, 1954. Road west of Penhold.



Titan tractor and threshing machine owned by August Gehrke.



Mixing concrete for piers on A.C.R. bridge.



Blasting gravel for A.C.R. bridge winter of 1910-11.



Byron Raymer with 1904 International 20 H.P. stationary engine.



John Silverberg clearing land late 90's.



Hauling logs to the Great West Mill 1916. Far Right — Miles Willett, Third from right — Duncan Stewart.



The end of a log drive. Waiting for the mill.



Byron Raymer outfit in the early days. Note extended carrier elevating straw.



40 h.p. Case steamer being serviced and polished by Fred Freschette for display at Red Deer fair.



Braithwaite's 15-27 Rumley, 1927.



Threshing at C. J. E. Johanson's, about 1917.



DePalme's threshing in the snow, 1927.



Keith Wiggins on fender, John Soley on tractor. Threshing at Raymers.



Stacking hay at Anderson's.



Jerry Sills baling at Silverberg's 1930's.



Adolphe Schoch's harvesting outfit taken 1929. Les Oulton, on tractor, Fritz Lutz standing and A. Schoch in truck.



Griff Mayhew's first tractor.



George Braithwaite with Jayhawk stacker, Frank DePalme with sweep. Haying time, 1946.



George Belich cutting oats with binder.



August Gehrke hauling ice from river and putting it in his ice house.



Haying the acreage about 1942. Mrs. Bert Willett.



Oxen pulling a binder, central Alberta 1890. Picture by Ernest Brown. Courtesy of Government of Alberta Archives and Miss Gladys Reeves.



A. Gehrke's sons with municipal road maintainer.



Farnell and Raymer families going blueberry picking in Poplar Ridge.



August Gehrke with his prize winning horses at Red Deer fair grounds.



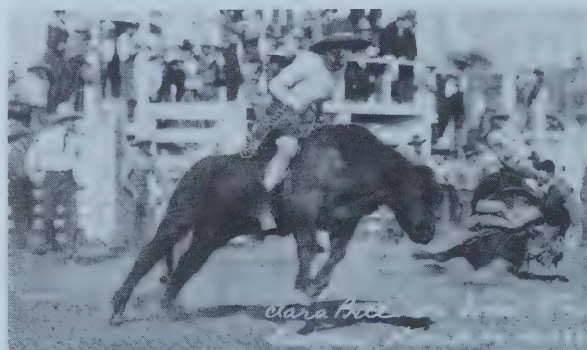
Oscar Silverberg and Lorain Barnes breaking a horse to ride.



Silverbergs chuckwagon outfit on way to Calgary in the 1920's.



Benalto stampede 1920's. Pickup men Clifford Braithwaite and George Plummer.



Clara Beu, liberated women, 1926.



Oscar Silverberg's work horses.



Horse race at Ridgewood picnic. Os Moore feeding dust to Frank DePalme on chief and Sam Wilson on Redwing mid 30's.



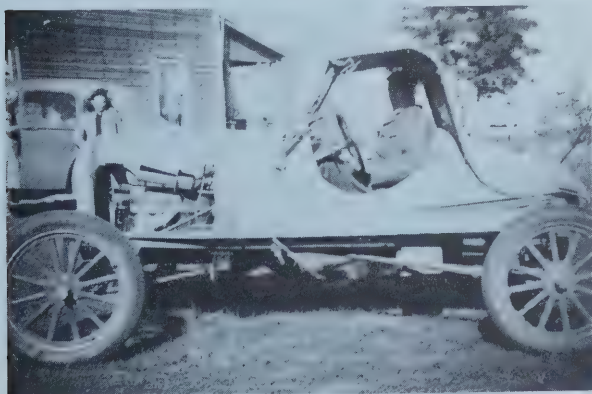
Jerry Sills mule team. The team of eight were pulling a plow. The two mules and one horse were pulling harrows.



Jim, Tom, Eva and George Braithwaite, 1927.



Wedding country style. Newlyweds are Mr. and Mrs. Langley. Os Moore in driver's seat.



Allan Baxter in Model T Ford hot rod, 1939.



Dave Bournes, 1927 truck. L-R — Dave Bourne, Les, Edith and Alton Yarbrough.



Model T Ford converted to tractor raking hay at Belich's.



Braithwaites wood sawing outfit, 1943. E. J. Ross filing saw. John Wentz, C. R. Braithwaite, Ernest Ross, unknown, Jim Braithwaite.



The peaceful Red Deer River valley. Schoch's wild rose ranch on the right.



Untimely snow storm Sept. 21, 1945. R. Bollinger's.



Shady Nook ball players 1937 — Back Row — Mervin McCune, Les Lutz, Al McCune (coach), Vic Raymer, Roland McCune. Front Row — Frank DePalme, Pete Lutz, Everett (Crogan) Frizzell, Wilton Mayberry, Dan Williams.



Nick Belich earning spending money, 1965.



Keith Wiggins Herefords crossing the Beaty Ford on way to pasture at Pine Lake.



Mary Dawson, William Botterill and Sigurd Sigurdson at old timers picnic, 1951.



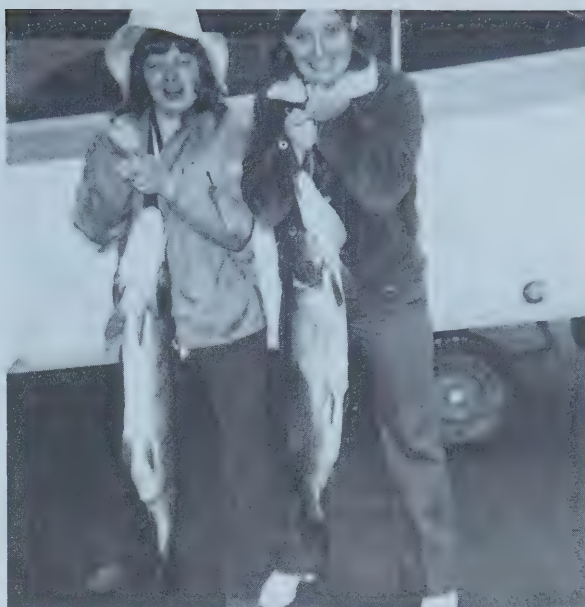
Successful hunt by Jim Braithwaite and Frank Johnson on the Kootenay plains 1957. Dan, Linda and Laurie Braithwaite.



Reuben Bollinger's big turkey.



John Braithwaite, Bill McCune, Bert McCune. Gone fishing.



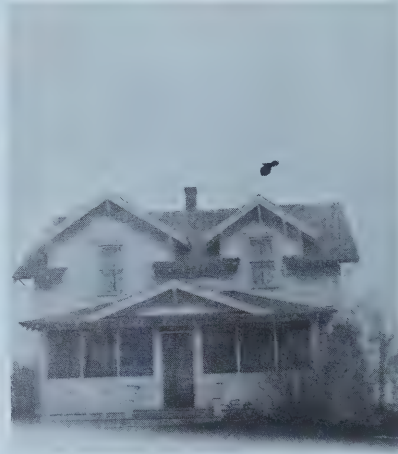
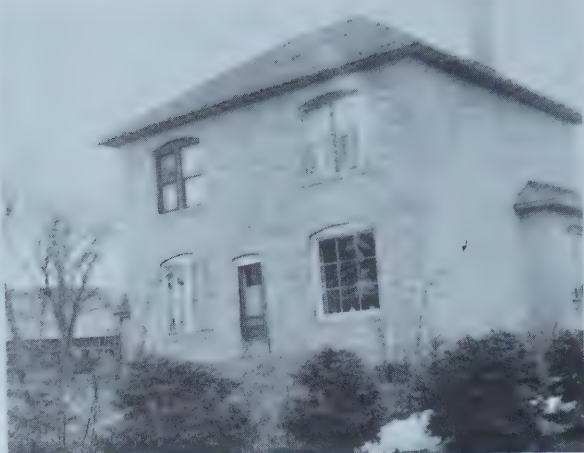
Gloria Gorday and sister-in-law Diane Kamlah. Fishermen.



Thanksgiving dinner at Galt's, if we catch him.



Raymers three-legged calf. Later butchered as three year old.



Top Left — Mayhew's first home in area, 1912. House was built earlier by Soley's. Top Right — The Wiggins' home. Bricks from Red

Deer brick factory. Bottom Left — Byron Raymer home built in 1919. Bottom Right — Anderson home built in 1919.



C. R. Braithwaite and John Martin.

JULY 9, 1964

OLD TIMERS HOLD PICNIC

About 60 old-timers and pioneers of the district gathered at Pioneer Lodge in the Red Deer Fairgrounds Wednesday afternoon for the Central Alberta Old Timers' Association annual picnic. Clifford R. Braithwaite (left) and John Martin recall anecdotes from the early days as they sit and chat in the photo at left. A number of the association members (centre photo) are shown during a contest to see who could blow the largest balloon. The members then sat down for lunch (right). Some of the ladies had cleaned the lodge for the occasion and Hugh Bower had washed the exterior of the building. The city of Red Deer maintains the grounds. A flag, donated by the T. Eaton Co., flew overhead for the first time. It was acquired to replace one destroyed by vandals at the Old Timers' picnic ground west of the city.

(Staff Photos)



Shady Nook history book committee. L-R — Dianne Lutz, Helen Wiggins, Jill Edgar, Jim Braithwaite, Edith Braithwaite, Maud Wright, Gary Botting and Hazel Braithwaite. Missing are Linda Mayhew, Lil Didier and Judy North.

Burnt Lake

[illegible]

BURNT LAKE

BURNT LAKE — ORIGIN OF NAME

Burnt Lake, what a strange name it is! Many have wondered why and wherefore it all came about. The legend we accept as most probable is as follows. Many, many years ago, even long before the white man arrived a fire burned a wide area of the peat like ground. A creek began to flow from the near by lake, later known as Snake, Swan and finally Sylvan Lake. The water filled up the depressions left by the fire. Year by year it grew larger as the smoldering fire burned around the edges. No wonder it became known as Burnt Lake, and the surrounding area adopted the name. But strange to say the lake and low meadows that have produced thousands of tons of hay never were officially Burnt Lake. It was called Cygnet meaning Little Swan and Cygnet Lake it is to this day. When the school district was formed in

1894 it was named Swan Lake. The town surveyed in 1903 was Stockholm. But the road from Red Deer and the Old Crossing was popularly known as the Burnt Lake Trail. The post office established January 1, 1901 was officially named Burnt Lake.

Among such a confusion of names Burnt Lake was the most meaningful and it was adopted by community clubs such as, Red Cross, Alberta Farmer's Association, Women's Institute, and athletic teams, and also in 1934 by the school district. The town of Stockholm and the post office disappeared but Burnt Lake remains the name of a thriving community. It comprises most of T. 38-1-5 and the north two miles of T. 37. The eastern boundary is the 5th Meridian, Sylvan Lake lies to the north, Pine Hill to the south and Centerville and Marianne to the west.



Burnt Lake — 1962. At right — Old Burnt Lake Stopping House; a store was further to the right. The Cheese Factory was in the vicinity of the present house. Back Middle — the former school barn, moved from

school grounds — Upper right corner — spruce trees on Burnt Lake Cemetery. Far view is Cygnet (Burnt) Lake.

PLAN OF TOWN OF STOCKHOLM

BEING PART OF

NE ¼ Sec. 3, Tp. 38, Re. 1, W. 5

R. C. Laurie, D.L.S.

1903

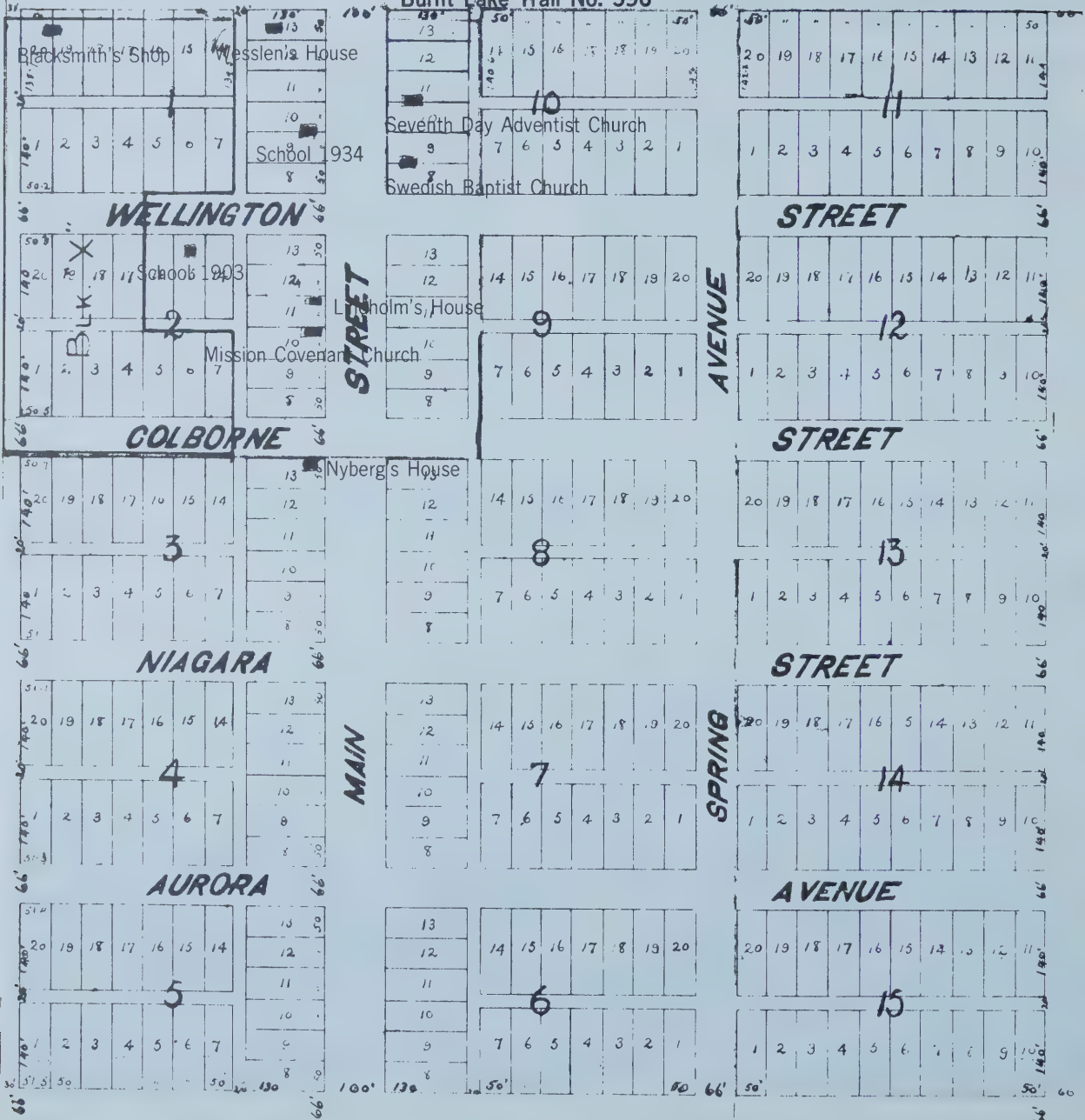
Scale - 200 ft. = 1 inch

Stopping House

Cheese Factory

E. Grimson's Store

Burnt Lake Trail No. 596



First Store and Post Office 1901
Skimming Station



View of Burnt Lake — 1920. From left Baptist Church, Mission church Friends, 1903 school and barn.

TOWN OF STOCKHOLM

At the turn of the century, it was felt the railway, known as A.C.R. (Alberta Central), would pass through the centre of the Swan Lake district on its way to Rocky Mountain House.

A company was formed called the Red Deer Land Company, headed by the President, G. W. Greene, a prominent Red Deer lawyer who later became Judge Greene. This company purchased from John T. Moore, a portion of NE 3-38-1-5, and in 1903 the townsite of Stockholm was surveyed.

There already had been one industry operating. No cream separators were available for individual farmers, so under government arrangement a skimming station was set up near a spring where there was an abundant supply of water. (see Lindholm story) The first store and post office (1901) was also located near the spring, the postmaster being Mr. J. Vernhardson. Very shortly, cream separators came on the market and the skimming station closed. The Vernhardsons moved to Hoquiam, Washington and later to Gig Harbor, Washington, where one of the daughters still (1976) resides. Mr. Vernhardson was always interested in community affairs, and a street in Gig Harbor is named for him.

Mr. A. Nyberg who had homesteaded NE 36-37-1-5 moved to the town of Stockholm, built a house on lot 13, block 3, and from it operated the post office and store. This house was later occupied by Linus Lindholm, became the permanent home of M. Mattsons and home for years of Mr. and Mrs. Carl Engman. The present owner (1976), G. Guder, rebuilt it and moved it onto a better foundation.

Oskar Wesslen built two structures, a house and blacksmith shop. After the demise of the town of Stockholm, Jamieson Bros. bought the Wesslen house and with the aid of Frank Dallaire, moved it to their land in Centerville, SE 6-38-1-5. Later this land and building became the home of Mr. and Mrs. Bert Bell. It has been improved and renovated and still (1976) is occupied by the Bell family.

Another home was built near the Mission Covenant Church by Mr. A. G. Lindholm. It was used by visiting ministers, and rented to various families over the years. Mr. Lindholm for a time operated a grist mill nearby. The Lindholm house was moved by Frank Lindholm to his farm, SE 27-38-1-5 and is the nucleus of a fine

modern home. These buildings along with the churches and school were used by the public.

Across the road from the surveyed town were three more structures that played an important part in the story of the area. Early in the century, a large house or "stopping house" was built and operated by the Mattsons. A thriving business resulted, catering to the needs of freighters and travellers. After the Mattsons left, several families lived there. The **Murdock (Murdy) McDonald** family came to Burnt Lake about 1907, from Calgary, previously from Ridgewood. The McDonalds had six children, Hazel, Tom, Ethel, Murdy, Gordon and Robert, only three of whom were born before they came. The work here was too much for Mrs. McDonald's health and they moved to Red Deer for a time before resuming farming at Ridgewood and Shady Nook, later moving to Fort Vermilion. **Mr. and Mrs. Jim Logan** took over the Stopping House next. They had four children, Alice, Maitland, Maggie and Louis. Stories are told of Maitland making stilts and helping other boys to learn how to walk on them. The **Steve Wilson** family lived in the Stopping House in 1910.

The **Hill** family, with children Lyman, Willy and Jeanie and Mrs. Hill's daughter, **Henrietta Waters**, lived in the Stopping House for a time and the children attended school at Burnt Lake. In 1916 they moved to the Smith Ranch at Evarts where they worked for a time. In 1920 it became the home of the G. Bjelke family until 1951 when the land was sold. In 1964 a fire destroyed this old landmark.

In 1907 T. B. Millar built a cheese factory. When it was closed in 1912, Elof Holmgren from Centerville moved it to his farm and used it as a residence for some years.

The third structure was the store Western General Telephone toll station and post office, the property of Mr. Earl Grimson who had bought the business from J. H. Robinson. He had a thriving business from 1908 to 1912. At that time it became clear Stockholm would never be a business centre as the railway, on its way to Sylvan Lake, had by-passed it three miles to the north. Earl moved his store to Sylvan Lake. The surveyed land of Stockholm gradually became cancelled and was absorbed by the farm, and a few acreages.

Three more residents associated with the town of Stockholm are as follows: **Sven Nicklasson** came from Sweden and in 1900 homesteaded the NW 10-38-1-5. For



Earl Grimson's store — 1911. — Town of Stockholm. Grimson family L. to R. Thura, Ella, Folda, Christine, Grandmother Jorunn,

Fred, Julius, Earl in doorway, Mr. Sam Grimson by corner of store and Grimur on bicycle.

some years in the early part of the century he lived on lots in the town of Stockholm. He is remembered as a self-reliant, independent man who was well educated and an ardent reader. He was a gifted gardener and many a family benefitted from his garden produce, especially his excellent potatoes. As far as is known, he had no family in Canada. **Carl Gustofson** came from Sweden as a young man about 1900. He worked for the farmers in the Burnt Lake area and worked on the railroads on and off for many years. In 1912 he planted the first trees for Eric Johanson on a building site of the (green house) on NW 6-38-28-4. He had property along the river in Edmonton and also lived for many years where Swen Nicklasson had first built his cabin near the spring on the Stockholm site. There was a beautiful little grove of trees which sheltered the few buildings. After Carl's death they were cut down and sawed for lumber. The house was burned in a fire in December 1946. The neighbors provided a shelter to take its place but it was only used a short while as Mr. Gustafson died in December 1948. He was a bachelor, and had no family. His hobby made him known as a "pack-rat". He collected and saw value in what many threw away. He lived frugally with a minimum of household goods. He was adept with his table knife, could eat with ease a very soft boiled egg, using only a narrow knife. He was an eccentric interesting, but helpful neighbor. The third gentleman to be mentioned was a

Mr. Johnson, who lived across the main street from Nybergs. He was unable to adapt and care for himself in those rugged, pioneer days, and soon drifted on.

THE BURNT LAKE FAIR

In the early years, after the townsite of Stockholm was surveyed, the surrounding area looked forward with a good deal of hope to it becoming the centre for a large agricultural industry. With this in mind, the first fair was organized in 1906. **Mr. E. WIDWEN** who later moved to Red Deer, and then to Blackfalds, headed the committee with Lackie Martin, treasurer; F. Agren, secretary, and Linus Lindholm, a director.

It is not known exactly how many years these fairs continued, but mention is made in family histories of prizes being won at the Burnt Lake Fair.

This year, 1906, also saw the first telephone toll station at Burnt Lake.

GROWTH OF THE MAIL SERVICE IN BURNT LAKE

In the very early days news from far away relatives or of world events was at best irregular and spasmodic, with long periods of time with no mail whatsoever. In the country west of Red Deer settlers picked up their mail at the nearest town or village, which meant Red Deer, Penhold or Innisfail. So it was truly a great step forward when on July 1, 1901 two post offices were established



Cheese Factory at Burnt Lake with T. B. Millar on right — 1907-12. Courtesy of Glenbow Foundation.

simultaneously some 15 and 20 miles west and south of Red Deer.

One, Solheima, meaning in Icelandic, “the light of the sun is home”, was located on SW 22-37-1-5 with Samuel Johnson as postmaster; it continued operations until June 30, 1911. From that time until rural service began, the people from Pine Hill who had been served by Solheima, received their mail at Burnt Lake.

The second post office to open July 1, 1901 was named Burnt Lake and was located on NE 3-38-1-5. About 600 feet from the south boundary of this quarter and approximately half way east westwise is a spring where the skimming station was located. Nearby, Mr. John Vernhardson, the first postmaster, opened a combined store and post office.

In 1903 the need for the skimming station diminished and with its closure the store and post office was moved to the A. J. Nyberg house nearer the main road in the town of Stockholm which had just been surveyed. Mr. Nyberg was postmaster from August 1, 1903 to July 28, 1904. Next Mr. A. N. Stinson served as postmaster from December 1, 1904 to March 8, 1905. The post office was located at this time in what was known as the Wesslen house near the main east-west road. Following this from May 1, 1905 to September 8, 1908 Linus Lindholm operated the store and post office back in the Nyberg house. In 1908 Mr. Lindholm closed his store and in order to have postal service, Mr. T. B. Millar was postmaster from December 1, 1908 to January 22, 1910 operating from the Wesslen house. Charles Millar recalls that there wasn't much mail. The mail for the small post

office, Solheima, came to Burnt Lake where it had to be sorted. The postmaster from Solheima usually rode over twice a week with his outgoing mail and picked up the mail for Solheima.

Up to this time the Burnt Lake Post Office was within the townsite of Stockholm, but in 1908 Earl Grimson opened a store across the road on SE 10-38-1-5 and from April 16, 1910 to April 4, 1912 he was postmaster, operating from his store. By 1912 it became clear that the railway would never pass through Stockholm, so Mr. Grimson moved his building to Sylvan Lake to continue his business. The post office left the town of Stockholm and was opened in the residence of Mr. S. Grimson on SE 4-38-1-5 and continued there until it officially closed on August 5, 1916.

Over the years the mail had come out to Burnt Lake by stage. Names of contractors were as follows:

Red Deer & Solheima	
F. Anderson	July 1, 1901
J. Vernhardson	October 1, 1901
Evarts & Red Deer	
O. M. Farham	July 1, 1903
J. H. Robinson	September 1, 1905
Eckville & Red Deer	
A. B. Koski	December 1, 1905
J. Kelma	December 18, 1906
J. H. Robinson	April 1, 1908
A. C. Foster	December 1, 1909
Pilcox & Red Deer	
A. C. Foster	January 1, 1912

Mr. Charles Millar recalls further: The stage, a three seated democrat drawn by two horses and driven by a character by the name of Foster, brought the mail from Red Deer three times a week. He went on to Evarts, Eckville and Leslieville returning the next day and carried the outgoing mail back to Red Deer. Very often he changed teams at Evarts. Travellers used to ride with Foster and he told them some weird and wonderful tales. One summer day he had only one man with him and to pass the time, Foster said, "Do you see that little knoll? Well, last week, right there, I shot the finest buck you ever saw." His passenger looked at him and asked, "Do you know who I am?"

"No", replied Foster.

"I'm the Chief Game Warden of Alberta", said his passenger.

Foster said, "Do you know who I am?"

The Game Warden replied that he did not.

"I'm the biggest liar in Alberta", was Foster's reply.

This is a true story.

Red Deer Rural Route No. 1 came into being January 5, 1914. Mr. M. A. L. Foster was the first mail carrier. He was at times assisted by Mr. R. Heinon, who recalls being pressed into the mail service when drivers were hard to find, as so many young men had gone to the army. It was a long day's drive — 52 miles. Mr. Foster was followed by:

Adair & Mitchell	November 23, 1915
J. M. Meyer	January 1, 1919
J. Coghlin	January 1, 1923
E. A. Kirk	January 1, 1925
W. Silverberg	February 1, 1929
Mrs. W. (E. A.) Silverberg	April 1, 1942
W. Silverberg	January 1, 1945

and when he retired W. R. Coleman January 1, 1966, who is still in 1976 our faithful mailman.

At first the mail service was three times a week, Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, but since December 12, 1960 daily service has been provided.

Mr. Silverberg writes regarding their 37 years of service. "I started to deliver mail on R.R. 1 on November 1, 1928. We used to deliver the mail to the Sylvan Lake post office, then go west two and one-half miles, south for four miles, east two miles and then south and west to about five miles north east of Markerville, then two miles east and north past the Pine Hill school to the Burnt Lake Trail which we followed to Red Deer. The mileage on the trip then was 52 miles but the last four years or so they changed it as Sylvan Lake had its own mail route. So we turned south before we got to Sylvan Lake but had more mileage added on the first part of the route. At first it was three times a week. We had R.R. 3 also, which went south east from Red Deer, and then the last few years they made both daily, so it kept us busy.

The first years were kind of tough, although I had real good horses, it was a long hard day for them. Later we got a snow plane, which was good, but then they started to plow out the snow on the Sylvan Lake highway. So I had to take a car to the Lake, and then go back and take the snow plane out over Burnt Lake and do the rest of the route. But it was only for a year or so and they plowed out the rest of the route. We sold the plane and just used a car.

We were out over part of the route last summer (1975). Now it is paved roads instead of mud. The first year we had to deliver the mail on Christmas day, which is different from now.

Emma and I were married March 20, 1929. She says we had our honeymoon on the mail route. In 1942 I joined the Provost Corps (military police) for two years and eight months. Emma took over the mail and probably did a better job than I.

We got a lot of help from our children, as they liked to go on the mail route and as soon as they could reach the pedals on the car they did all the driving.

I retired in December 1965 and moved out to Sydney, British Columbia, where we spend a lot of time on the golf course.

We have one daughter and two sons. **Wilamine**, a nurse is supervisor at a hospital out here. **Doug** is manager of London Life Insurance in Calgary. **Dick** is the golf pro at the Glen Meadows Golf Course out here."

THE PIONEERS — by Lillian Armeneau

Some came here from far distant lands
With courage and strong, willing hands
To work and struggle many years
In spite of sickness, pain and tears.
So brave they were and staunch of heart
In facing hardships from the start,
In getting by; to do without
So many things and live in doubt
Regarding much they undertook —
Accounts of which would fill a book!

* * *

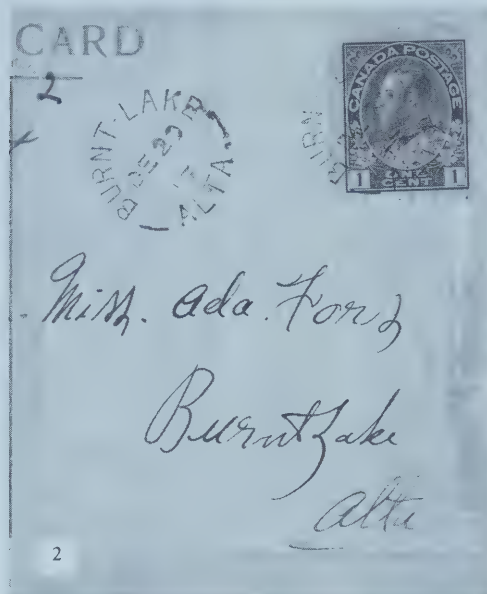
They opened up this fine, new land
Where homesteads were in great demand.
Those immigrants had faith and hope,
Persistence wherewith they could cope
With all the things that set them back:
Disasters great and often lack
Of things they couldn't buy nor make —
Machines such as a mower and rake —
But share they did, as neighbors should
And helped each other where they could.
The language barrier was a block,
By "hit and miss" they learned to talk,
Communicate by gestures, signs,
Some "touch-and-say" and sketched designs
The English taught to "kids" in school;
Relayed to grown-ups, as a rule,
Had aided them in deals with others
And helped them be as friends and brothers.
The children weren't in school for long;
Their help was needed. They were strong
And healthy, living on plain food
And in a life style that was good.
The parents, children, neighbors, friends,
All proved that one's success depends
On sharing, caring, and hard work
With no excuse to ever shirk
The duties that before them lay.
There were no strikes for higher pay.
"Co-operate" tells in one word
What all of us have often heard
That pioneers who had success
Were truly neighbors — nothing less!

If those who then were pioneers
 Were here to tell about the years
 When they were busy clearing land
 We all would better understand
 What now we should be thankful for,
 The heritage they left — and more!
 We would be grateful for a lot:
 The thrift and honesty they taught
 The ageless virtues, principles and all

That their descendants should recall.
 Our forebears had their faults, 'tis true,
 And lack of foresight — we do, too!
 All honor then to them be given
 For all the years when they had striven
 To make life good for us, the heirs
 Of all that rightfully was theirs:
 The land, improvements which were made,
 And other things for which they paid.



J. M. Meyers, mailman



No. 1.

Nyberg house — site of second store and post office.

No. 2

Burnt Lake post office stamp — 1913.

No. 3

J. M. Meyers — early rural route no. 1 mail carrier.

No. 4

Bill Silverberg's snow plane — early 1940.



FOR KING AND COUNTRY

* * * MEMBERS OF * * *

Burut Lake Community

WHO HAVE VOLUNTEERED FOR ACTIVE SERVICE

————— WITH —————

CANADA'S FIGHTING FORCES

To Johnson, Robert O. •
To Langton, George R.O. •
Sgt. Le Bihan, Gabriel Ed. •

Bjelke, Andrew G.
Bjelke, Arthur G.
Noran, Robert
Engman, Hilding
Granneslad, Alfred G.
Hermans, Jean G.M.
Jorgensen, Sophus S.

Johnson, Ralph B.
Jorgenson, L. Calvin
Langton, Ben O.
Langton, Elizabeth
Le Bihan, George
Norby, Andrew S.
Norby, Edward O.
Sarman, Einar W.
Selstrom, Gordon H.
Selstrom, Hugo W.
Swainson, Alfred W.
Swainson, P. Roy.

PIONEER DAYS — by MRS. SWAIN SWAINSON

In the last few years much has been said about district histories and those of us who were born in Alberta find ourselves thinking of those early days and asking questions of our senior citizens.

It is always a treat to find one whose mind is still keen and who clearly remembers events. The tales they tell are truly worth recording.

Now that our mode of living is so luxurious compared to those early days in Alberta we appreciate our pioneers. They came to make homes for themselves and their families and braved untold hardships and loneliness in this new land. They were brave, hardy men and women filled with courage and perseverance. Very often the men came first and when they saw the miles and miles of fertile country with the abundant green grass, bright wild flowers, creeks, rivers and lakes of clear, pure water and over all the bright sunny skies, they felt they had found a veritable paradise and 160 acres of this fine land was theirs for only \$10.00.

My parents homesteaded in the Pine Hill district in April 1889. This was two years before the railway was constructed between Calgary and Edmonton.

They came from Calgary by ox team and it is hard even to imagine what such a trip would be like, especially for a woman with a four months old baby, my eldest sister.

There were no neighbors for miles and miles until the Angus Martin family arrived from Ontario and settled on a quarter that kitty-cornered by father's land. My early recollections of Mrs. Martin are of a sweet gentle lady who was always interested in us and ready to lend a helping hand.

When my eldest sister was nine years old there was still no school in the district, so for some time she went to learn the 3R's from Miss Elizabeth Martin at their home. (Lizzie as she was always called, was later Mrs. W. Reay of Red Deer). Incidentally Miss Martin was the first teacher of the Burnt Lake School which was opened in 1894, I believe.

Another pioneer family I remember well was John Peterson and his wife who homesteaded some 10 or 12 years later on the same section as my father. Mrs. Peterson was completely blind and it fell to my lot to stay with her quite frequently and do little errands about the house, such as to pick out the right color and material of patches for her mending. She told me stories by the hour and was always so cheerful and busy I never think of her as being blind.

I had my first dental work done here. One of my molars was aching and Mr. Peterson discovered a cavity. He immediately went to his ammunition box and proceeded to cut a shot gun shell apart and when he had, he handed me one of the tiny pellets, told me to place it on the cavity and bite hard. I did as I was told and the aching soon subsided. That very unprofessional filling remained in my tooth until it was replaced by a permanent one several years later. What would our dentists think now! No doubt I was very fortunate that it did not give further trouble. A few years later this dear old couple left to live with their son in Edmonton and I wept bitterly. I know all the family felt the loss keenly for these people had been real neighbors, and if people ever needed neighbors it was in those pioneer days.

I think when God made neighbors,
He was glad because He knew
The joy there is in sitting down
To chat with friends — don't you?
Skies somehow never loom as grey,
Our joys are deeper — shared.
'Twas easier far to bear a pain
When someone said they cared.
To do a patch or mending
Or to sew a waiting hem —
Even just to dream away an hour
With a neighbor now and then,
Makes us glow with love of living
Right within our acre here,
For to know we all are neighbors
Brings a bit of heaven near.

I remember my first day at school vividly. The school had been open for two or three years before I was old enough to go. I had heard my two sisters and my brother tell about the fun they had at recesses and so I thought it was mostly play and was very disappointed when I had to sit, for what seemed, like hours on a very hard bench. But I worshipped my young teacher, gentle and petite, Miss Mina Cole, who has now died. Miss Cole taught us more nature study than any other teacher I ever had and her interest and kindness to birds and animals left a lasting impression, which was all to the good.

There was very little grain raised. My father kept sheep and cattle. There were miles and miles of open land for the cattle to graze but the sheep had to be herded until fencing became general. Hay was plentiful and haying was the principal work during the summer, all done with horses and hauled into stacks on huge creaking wagons and racks. Prairie fires were the fear and dread of everyone and a close watch was kept at all times. They could travel great distances in a few hours and the men often fought these fires to the point of exhaustion to save their buildings and the winter's supply of hay.

What did we do for amusement? There were annual picnics that were looked forward to with eagerness and there was a great deal of preparation for weeks before the big event. We got a new dress and hat for that occasion and a big meal was prepared in which everyone shared. There were speeches from members of parliament, ministers and professors, a choir sang beautiful national anthems and best of all there was a booth with candy, oranges and cans of lemonade made from honest to goodness lemons.

In the winter time, the young folk and some of the older ones too, put on plays which I am sure could compete in the Drama Festivals today. I remember actors who fairly made your hair stand on end with their realistic acting.

We went to town, Red Deer, twice a year, July and before Christmas. In July after the sheep had been shorn, the wool was packed into huge bags, loaded on the wagon to be hauled into town and sold. I think some of us children were allowed to go most of the time. I remember getting up at four o'clock in the morning so as to get an early start. The return trip was nearly 40 miles and work horses, pulling a load do not travel more than three or four miles an hour, so 10 hours would be spent on the road.

Groceries to last for several months were bought, material to be made into sturdy, warm clothes and very little in the way of luxuries. It was the custom of the shop keeper where we bought our groceries to give a big bag of fancy biscuits, candy and oranges to the children and I remember how it was doled out to us so it lasted for weeks.

There are many more incidents one could relate but time will not permit and this is enough to show the enormous changes that have taken place in our province in a comparatively short time. Now we have several large cities, towns by the dozen, railways with speedy, luxurious passenger service, paved and gravelled roads carrying all kinds of vehicles from jeeps to trucks to huge high powered automobiles. Planes zoom overhead and all this, where a few years ago there was nothing but the great stillness of a vast uninhabited land.

MEMORIES — by EDITH M. DALLAIRE

It is a cold winter evening. All the stock is fed for the night, but still one more chore, the milking, to be done. Light a freshly filled kerosene lantern, and step out to the barn through the crisp snow.

On opening the door, which leads into the horse barn, you are met with an outrush of warm pungent air. Can there be a more distinct aroma, than that of horse flesh and fresh prairie hay, or a more contented sound than smooth grind, chewing of oats being relished, the swish of the odd tail, and stamp of an itchy foot?

Pass through to the cow barn, hang the lantern high and safe on a spike in a beam. The cows, some still eating, nudge the rustling hay aside looking for tasty morsels. Some cows have already lain down, but, on hearing your entry, immediately straighten those hind legs and heave — up she comes. Next unfold the front legs, accompanied by the rattling of chains, and the without fail, plunk! plunk! as a juicy cow pie is deposited — hopefully — in the gutter.

Next, with stool ready, sit down and clang, ring, the stream of milk hits the empty pail. But in no time the foam rises and the sound is soft and satisfying. Old tabby sits in the aisle, licking her lips and mewing softly to remind you, that she is ready and waiting for a warm drink. As you step out she immediately pushes against your leg; tail in air, head upturned, Meow! Meow! Now! Now!

Let us look into the hen house on the way back to the house. In the darkness, just a soft cur-r-r, from the old rooster, letting you know that he is on the watch. But let us look in on the ducks and there is a chorus of quack, quack, enough to wake the neighborhood. It is a well known fact, that you cannot call the men folk from the house if there is a duck, goose, or turkey in the yard. At your first call there is such a screaming, quack, honk, gobble, it is useless to try to get the message across.

Time for supper. The kitchen sends out the unforgettable fragrance of burning wood, so warm and comforting, and then for ravenous appetites, the delicious odor of fresh baked bread and spicy apple pie.

Another recollection: Have you ever been a teacher in a one room country school? On stepping over the door step, remember the characteristic fragrance — a mixture of dust, chalk, rubber boots, woollen mitts and warm squirming little bodies, fresh in from the playground. Remember the little hand, pushing back a lank forelock

from a damp forehead. Add the flavor of spruce at Christmas time and you have the distinct and unforgettable memory of a country school.

THE BURNT LAKE WOMEN'S INSTITUTE — by Struna Swainson

In January 1923, Mrs. R. A. Plummer, then teaching at Burnt Lake, approached Mrs. Swain Swainson with the idea of organizing a branch of the Women's Institutes of Canada. They contacted Mrs. H. R. McDougall of Penhold, Constituency Convener. She came out to the Swan Lake School (later the Burnt Lake School) on January 31st to explain the origin, objectives and aims of the Women's Institute of Canada. There was a good attendance of the women of the district and it was decided to organize the branch, to be called the Burnt Lake Women's Institute.

The following officers were elected: President: Mrs. R. A. Plummer; 1st Vice-President: Miss Juliana Dallaire; 2nd Vice-President: Miss Bertha Sveinson; Secretary-Treasurer: Mrs. Swain Swainson; Directors: Mrs. John Johanson, Mrs. Bruce Hagerman and Mrs. S. S. Jorgensen. It was decided to hold the meetings on the 3rd Wednesday of each month. The first meeting to be held at Mrs. Swain Swainsons. Nineteen ladies turned out to this meeting and more committees were named to look after the business of the organization. Topics to be studied were spring house-cleaning, gardening, washing of woolens and silks, the elimination of flies, and nutrition by Miss Crosbie, Public Health Nurse. A report of the provincial convention was given by Mrs. Robert Doran, attending delegate.

Have you ever stopped to think what your Women's Institute means to you? Our regular monthly meetings have given opportunity for the exercise of executive ability, for the exchange of ideas, for the cultivation of talents we did not know existed, and for the pleasure of visiting with our neighbors. The discontent found in many farm homes, especially in the more remote and isolated areas was the result of self-centered interests. We cannot be happy living for ourselves alone, but must meet to share our ideas with our neighbors for the good of all.

It was not easy to attend the meetings, all of us were young women with small children. Often the children out-numbered the mothers. At one meeting we had eighteen pre-school children, and ten or twelve were quite common. Our meetings gave us a "lift", a chance to share and renew old acquaintances and to get away from the household chores, even if very briefly. Perhaps we had to work a little harder to be able to get away but it was worth the extra effort.

And here we would like to pay tribute to our husbands who have often helped so we could get away, helped with the children and household duties and have not minded too much even if their supper was a bit scanty and late.

Through the fifty-three years that our Women's Institute has been organized we have done a tremendous amount of work in our home district. People who were in need have been assisted. Christmas and other parties have been held for the school children, we have supported our hockey team, showers have been held for our young people as they left to establish homes of their own. Farewell parties have been held and wedding anniversaries



No. 1

Burnt Lake W.I. — 1924, at Bjelkes (former Burnt Lake Stopping House). Mrs. Robert Doran holding Harold Bjelke, Mrs. Gus Bjelke, Alfred Swainson, Sadie Sveinson, Edith Cody, Dick Swainson, Bertha Sveinson, Mrs. Swain Swainson holding Roy.

No. 2

50th Anniversary — W.I. Mrs. E. Sveinson, Mr. and Mrs. T. O. Langton, Mr. and Mrs. Swain Swainson, Mrs. Angus Martin, Mrs. J. Morrisroe, Mrs. G. Mannerfeldt, Mrs. J. Johanson, Sister Xavier (Juliana Dallaire), Mrs. G. Fitch, Standing — Mrs. J. Lindmam, Mrs. D. Sawyer, Sister Celina (Blanche Dallaire).

No. 3

Award of Years of Service Pins — 1973. Mrs. A. Johanson, Mrs. D. Sawyer, Mrs. Wm. Horne, Mrs. D. Ballantyne, Mrs. O. Johanson, Mrs. A. Halvorson, Mrs. J. Lindman, Mrs. Swain Swainson, who is a W.I. charter member and has served 50 continuous years.

No. 4

Mrs. Grimur Grimson and Mr. and Mrs. F. T. Dallaire.

No. 5

Mrs. F. T. Dallaire, Mrs. Grimur Grimson, Mrs. Paul Sveinson receiving 50 year service pins — Dec. 1973.

saries observed. We have had many dedicated members who have worked unstintingly through the years with no thought of glory for themselves, just the satisfaction of work well done for Home and Country.

Our Women's Institute Creed

Keep us, O God, from pettiness, let us be large in thought, in word and deed.

Let us be done with fault-finding and leave off self-seeking.

May we put away pretense and meet each other face to face without self-pity and without prejudice.

May we never be hasty in judgement and always generous.

Teach us to put into action our better impulses, straight forward and unafraid.

Let us take time for all things; make us grow calm, serene, gentle.

Grant that we may realize it is the little things that create differences; that in the big things of life we are one.

And may we strive to touch and to know the great human heart common to us all; and, O Lord God, let us not forget to be kind.

BURNT LAKE FARMER'S LAMENT

Today is the day, my wife may say,

My day to join the Women's Institute group.

So at noon time Dad, when you come in

You can open a can of soup.

Now don't go far, I will need the car,

All this food and some chairs I must take,

Roast beef, mashed potatoes, gravy, sauce and pickles

And a box for this big marble cake.

We know how it feels, home cooling our heels,

Neglecting even a look, at those beautiful fields,

Today, is the day we are all stuck home to stay,

For our wives are all gone with our wheels.

I can almost hear them sigh, as they finish the pie

Oh my, how the time does fly!

We must break up our group,

Rush back and prepare to feed the home troop

Tonight, we will make do, with a nice bowl of soup.

Sometimes we may jest, but our wives are the best,

We don't begrudge them their day with their group,

For on a cold rainy day, at work or at play,

It is nice to come in, to a hot bowl of soup.

BURNT LAKE SCHOOL NO. 299 — written by Mrs. Swain Swainson and Mrs. Frank T. Dallaire

The district, then called Swan Lake Public School District, was established February 20, 1894. The first school was located in the NW corner of SW 2-38-1-5 which is on-half mile east and one-half mile south of the present school property. The N.W.T. Gazette May 29, 1894 records permission being given to borrow \$200 for the purpose of purchasing a school site, erecting a schoolhouse, and buying equipment. An abandoned settler's log shack was situated on the above property. This was used as a school from 1896-1899.

There were twenty-one school age children in the surrounding area. Mr. Angus Martin spearheaded the drive to organize a school district. G. W. Greene, later Judge

Greene, an early Red Deer lawyer, helped with the legal aspects.

All furnishings were homemade. The students sat on planks for desks. The stove was an old rusty cook stove which had been left by the former owner. School was in operation for four months of the year — the summer months. Slates were used mainly to save the scant supply of paper.

On October 9, 1934 when a modern rural school was built, the name was changed to Burnt Lake.

The first school was purchased by Carl Asplund who used it for a dwelling place on NE 4-38-1-5 until his death in 1927. The remains of this building can still be seen on the farm of Stanley Swainson.

The first pupils were: Fred, Hannah and Ulrika Agren; August and Fred Reinholt; John and Donald Martin; Oliver, Peter, Elfreda and Inga Johnson; Charlotte, Charles and Frank Lindholm; Jarin Grimson; Fred Anderson; Maggie and Agnes Erickson; Engelbert Fors; Nick and Lydia Halverson. The Martins and the Johnsons were from the present Pine Hill district, as they had yet no school.

The first teacher was Miss Elizabeth Martin — 1896. The second teacher was Mr. Eggleton.

Bert Fors was an especially lively and mischievous pupil. He usually had a part in every prank. One recess Bert snared a gopher just as the bell rang. Loathe to let his prize go so soon he smuggled it into the classroom and turned it loose. The girls, as ever the same, took advantage of the situation to become hysterical. The source of this story still remembers the squealing, the clutching of skirts, and leaping on desks, as Mr. Eggleton flailed about with a stick after the gopher. Finally the victim was disposed of and the question raised "How did the gopher get into the school?"

All was innocence until one helpful pupil came up with a logical answer, the door was open and the gopher just ran in.

"But how," asked Mr. Eggleton, "did the string get around his neck?" He said no more just eyed the assembled pupils until he located Bert, then pointed sternly to the corner where Bert remained the rest of the afternoon.

The pupils carried the water supply for the school from a spring about one-quarter of a mile to the west. If one went, he usually got back with enough for everyone to have a drink, but if two boys went with the one pail it wasn't too successful. They would start out with a painful of water carrying it between them. The ground was rough with many hummocks. This necessitated frequent rests, and maybe a wrestling match to relieve the monotony. The result — two boys each with a wet leg from slopping the water and only a scant amount to drink in the bottom of the pail.

Permission to borrow \$300 for the purpose of erecting a new school was recorded in the N.W.T. Gazette July 7, 1899. This building was erected on NW 2-38-1-5 by Henry Reinholt. The material used was lumber.

1900 was a very wet year. The ground surrounding the school for that year and many years following was wet. It was decided to move the school one-half mile west to the proposed town of Stockholm. This school was furnished with double desks, a teacher's desk, and blackboards.



Swan Lake School — built in 1899, moved to the Burnt Lake site in 1903.

No. 2

Burnt Lake School built in 1934, and the teacherage.

No. 3

Burnt Lake class — 1940 — Boys standing — Hartley Johanson, Clifford Halvorson, Dennis Johanson, Edgar Johanson, Stanley Swainson, Tom Sveinson, Lloyd Sveinson, Rodney Johanson, Sam Grimson, Joe Sveinson. Girls kneeling — Jean Sveinson, Lily Grimson, Lillie Dallaire, Fern Johanson, Helen Swainson, Mildred Erickson, Marion Dallaire. Sitting — Winston Johanson, Dennis Sveinson, Pearl Swainson, Yvonne Johanson, June Erickson, Eric Johanson.

No. 4

Last Class — 1959. David Johanson, Wes Swainson, Rick Swainson, Larry Wilhelm. Girls — Anne Swainson, Wenda Swainson, Evelyn Wilhelm, Shirley Wilhelm, Kathy Grimson, Benta Lindstrom.

NO. 5

Modes of Transportation — Pearson and Thomas children. Helen Wold and Juliana Dallaire. School bus — 1977.



The third school was built in 1934 of lumber and stucco, it was built by J. F. Construction Co., Edmonton at a cost of \$3,500. The members of the board at this time were Sam Grimson, John Johanson, G. Bjelke, Oscar Johanson.

The district was included in the Red Deer School Division No. 35 by ministerial order September 28, 1938.

The school was closed January, 1959. There were ten pupils at that time: Anne Swainson; Kathy Grimson; Rickie and Wenda Swainson; Larry, Shirley and Evelyn Wilhelm; David Johanson, Benta Lindstrom; Wesley Swainson. These pupils were taken by bus to Sylvan Lake.

The school and grounds were bought by the Burnt Lake Community Centre.

After 1930 under the leadership of Mr. H. J. Cody the larger boys made a skating rink at the school hauling the water in an old steam engine tank. The second winter they got lumber for \$20.00 from a farmer living north of Sylvan Lake and Mr. G. S. Grimson donated the posts for the fence. The \$20.00 had been given by donations. The boys doing the work were: Andrew and Arthur Bjelke, Andrew and Ed Norby, and Alfred and Dick Swainson. It was hard work and they often came home soaking wet with frozen clothes but they enjoyed their hockey and had a good team, winning several trophies.

In 1922-23 Mrs. Plummer received two diplomas for first prize for achievement in the School Fairs, and Miss Edith Cody received it for 1924. These were carried on until 1933 or thereabouts. Then we had musical festivals competing with the other schools in Lacombe and Red Deer. Instrumental and vocal music and drama were featured.

Sports days were held from 1945 to 1954-55. Track meets with nine rural schools competing were held at Sylvan Lake. These ended with the inter-school ball games, usually Ridgewood and Burnt Lake in the finals.

List of teachers from 1896 to 1959: Miss Elizabeth Martin was the first teacher in 1896, Mr. Farr Eggleton 1897, Miss Mabel Malcolm 1898, Mr. Farr Eggleton 1899, Miss Graham 1900-1901, Mr. Turnbull 1902, Miss Mina Cole 1903. 1904 to 1910: Miss Bray, Miss McBane, Miss Stevens, Geo. Ralston, Miss Drennen, Mrs. T. B. Millar, Miss Chegivin. 1910 to 1920: Miss Greenwood, Miss Butler, Miss Etta Smith, Miss Josephine Goodmundson, Mr. O'Neil, Miss Grace Ramsay, Miss Bowlan, Miss Barbara McKenzie, Miss Olga Anderson. 1920 to 1940: Mrs. R. A. Plummer, Miss Edith Cody, Miss Helen Smith, Miss Magnusina Einarson, Mr. Norman Pickard, Miss Helen Standerwick, Mr. H. J. Cody (3 years), Miss Phylliss Steward (3 years), Miss Lillian Byers (2 years), Miss Margaret Gummow (2 years). 1940 to 1960: Miss Gwenneth Jones, Mrs. Jas. Park, Miss A. K. Ellstad, Mrs. Agnes Aberdeen, Miss Bertha Macklin, Miss Jane Wilson, Miss Winnifred Cutler (2 years), Miss M. B. Gaukler, Miss Suzanne Dahl, Mrs. Gaunce, Miss A. Anderson, Mrs. Eldridge (fall 1949), Mrs. Duke Bell, Miss Rose Holmgren 1950-52 (2 years), Mrs. Alice Fairbourne 1952-55 (3 years), Mrs. Agnes Neilson 1955-57 (2 years), Mrs. Beth Owen 1957-58-Jan. 1959.

QUOTES FROM THE SCHOOL MINUTES

This is a short history of the Burnt Lake school which was closed in 1959, and later sold to the Burnt Lake

Community Centre group for a recreation park. This arrangement worked well for about seven years while the community cleaned up the land and played their games and all went well along the Burnt Lake Trail, until 1967 when Mr. Ed Wesslen of Blackfalds claimed the land, and offered to sell our playground to us for \$2,000.00. This offer was declined.

We started to research the Burnt Lake school history, and we are finding some very interesting facts for a story; for instance the first school was opened in a

John H. Beattie
Chairman

John Beattie
Sec. Treas.

J. Swainson

H. Dallaire
rectr

Chapman
A. L. Stewart

Chapman
E. Swainson

Signatures of Swan Lake School Board officials prior to 1925. The school stamp.

homesteader's shack on private land, SW 2-38-1-5 in 1894. In 1903 the school board acquired a site in the town of Stockholm, Alberta, now known as Burnt Lake, and here the Swan Lake school was established permanently by moving the school house from its temporary site on sec. 2-38-1-5. Things went along quite normally for some years with the usual complaints by the children, that there was no room to play in the school yard, and the neighbors complained about the kids running over their land, and the teacher complained to the board of education about the size of the play ground.

In those days water had to be carried for drinking from a farm well, so in 1914 a well was drilled by C. F. Parke. The total cost was \$138.00. This was indeed a great improvement. In 1916 the school board received notice from the board of education that it was against regulations to have a school house on such a small plot of land, and to buy adjacent land to enlarge the grounds. The secretary was told to try to buy the land then owned by Oskar Wesslen in block 1 and 2, adjacent to the school property, 5.25 acres. Mr. Wesslen asked \$30.00 per acre, the school board said \$25.00, or they would go to arbitration. Mr. Wesslen agreed to sell for \$25.00 per acre but asked for time to clear his title. The school board paid \$25.00 in December 1919 to hold the deal, and in 1920 paid the balance of \$110.00, and the transfer was drawn.

In the early thirties a new school house was built on the north-east corner of the grounds in block 1, and the old school house was taken over by the sports club for a club house. The name also changed to Burnt Lake School No. 299; Swan Lake School is now in history. However, we found out later that the new school house was on land belonging to the Red Deer Land Company, and the company was long out of existence. After negotiations we got a title to that parcel of land. People had their differences even in those days. A petition was circulated to have the school house moved yet another time to a site one and one half miles south, but this move was defeated.

In 1914 school taxes were raised by a six cent per acre levy on the taxable land in the district. This was increased to seven cents per acre, and the teacher's salary was raised to \$65.00 per month. The school board borrowed money from the Merchant's Bank to operate the school. In 1915 taxes went up to ten cents per acre; the school was heated by wood fire. Mrs. Mattson was paid \$2.00 a month to light the fire. In 1916 the price of wood was \$1.95 per cord, cut, split and delivered to the school. In 1920 it cost \$240.00 to paint the school house and the school barn. In 1921, in an attempt to get out of debt, the board raised the taxes to 23¢ per acre, while this was only an emergency move, we notice that the taxes never came down. In 1922 Mr. Sam Grimson took over as chairman of the school board. This position he held for many years.

While life had been going on slowly like a lazy stream for several years, it now starts moving more briskly along the Burnt Lake Trail. In 1924 wood cost \$3.75 per cord; in 1925 J. Smith upset ink and paid for it, but was refunded at the annual meeting \$1.50. Burnt Lake also joined the school fair association and remained a member in good standing until the fairs were discontinued. Also in 1925, hay was traded in the school yard for garbage collecting. Later, they seized another hay stack for back taxes. In 1927 the tax structure was changed to eight mills on value of property — taxes still

going up. In 1928, 50 applications were received for teachers. In 1929 Mr. Oscar Norby built a foundation under the school house for \$50.00. The next lowest bid being \$175.00. When the board went to inspect the work, they found that Mr. Norby had done a good job, and also had done so much other work that was not on the order, the board voted Mr. Norby a \$25.00 bonus. In 1931, taxes were now collected by the municipality. A new basketball was purchased and the game of basketball was introduced to the school.

The source of the above information was derived from a Swan Lake School minute book dated 1914 to 1932, from corresponding cash books which had been audited and declared correct, and from the Burnt Lake Community Centre current minute book.

BURNT LAKE HISTORICAL SOCIETY — Vice-President's Diary

Mr. Murray Lindman was born in the Burnt Lake district in 1947, and grew to manhood here. As a boy, Murray had a slight lisp in his speech and when asked what he was going to be, he always would say "a profether". So in 1975 "profether" Lindman was living and teaching school in Jasper, Alberta and playing with the idea of writing a history of his old home where his parents, John and Molly Lindman, still live. During the Easter holidays while visiting here, Murray called a meeting of the old-timers and told his plan, and the society was spontaneously born with Mrs. Frank T. Dallaire as secretary, Oscar Johanson as president and Mrs. Swain Swainson and later Mrs. Braithwaite as treasurer to look after all the money, Dwight Sawyer as vice-president to keep things going. So here we have 301 years of accumulated wisdom to start writing a book. 301 is the combined ages of the four of us, so someone better wish us luck! Murray Lindman was appointed as executive-secretary, his duties are not clear as yet. Twenty-two people signed the register and paid \$1.00 each for the privilege. So the Burnt Lake Historical Society is launched with Oscar Johanson as big chief and I as vice will write a diary for future reference and I will title this document "How To Write A Book". — Vice-President's Diary, June 1975.

For some time now a group of the Burnt Lake people have been toying with the idea of writing a book, a history of this local district. Something small and modest that can be sold for about \$5.00 and have it ready for Christmas, perhaps 200 copies. So here and now the history begins. After several hours of head scratching and no writing, my wife Hilda, and I drove over to Dallaires for some inspiration, and here we encountered the most delightfully, dis-organized happy family I have ever had the pleasure to meet; about 20 people big and small, young and old, gathered in the back yard for an out-door dinner in celebration of the finish of spring planting. Everyone was talking at the same time, no one making any sense and everyone happy and having fun. Then suddenly they all jumped up and took off for their own homes. We soon got our wits back and talked for a couple of hours about the book, and left with no clear idea as to how to start the job. These little conversations carried on throughout the district until after harvest, then we called a meeting and got our steering committee set up with Oscar Johanson as head chief and Edith Dallaire

as his very able secretary. We made some other appropriate appointment and soon found that we had too many chiefs and two few Indians.

Our first move was to call a public meeting. This meeting was well advertised and so many people came we could not get organized, and it turned out to be quite a flop, except that we learned that so many people were interested, we will now be taking in more territory and make a much larger book. So now we will go for a 1,000 page book and 1,500 copies. No one in this group knows anything about book writing, so we call a meeting to get some ideas, and in come the ideas; so many in fact that we called another meeting to sort out the ideas of this meeting.

Now, after a series of meetings, we called a big meeting for December 5, 1975 and at this meeting we all got so confused I changed this article heading to read "How Not To Write a Book". At our next meeting, we got some organization and sent out some delegates to interview some other groups on the fine art of book writing. One delegate interviewed a printer and brought back information as to how we must get all our material together and all the pictures assembled before a printer can give a reasonably close estimate of the cost to finish the book. However, we did make the mistake of asking for an estimate and were told about \$36,000 for a 5" by 8" book with 1,000 pages and 1,500 copies. Since that time we have not been able to get anyone to see anything but \$36,000.00 when talking about the book. This is a hurdle we have not yet been able to negotiate. So we called a meeting for February 9, 1976 (this meeting calling is a little on the ridiculous side, don't you think?) and passed a resolution to interview a publisher at another meeting on February 16, 1976. There was something once said about having a book ready for Christmas, but fortunately we did not say which Christmas. All of this information has been before us for two months. Now, the winter is well spent and the busy spring season is coming on, and we have not yet got the first page started. I think it was once said "that a poor start is for a good finish". Well here's hoping!

February 16, 1976 — meeting at the Community Centre with a good crowd on hand; the man from the printers was here. We came to order in good time. The publisher had his samples with him and he entertained us royally for two hours and finished up by telling us the same things we all have heard before right here, mainly that we must get our copies together. He left a box of paper, pencils and instructions, and said if we need more, just let him know. It makes us feel obliged to the man and as if we would give him the job of printing our book. After all that is the whole idea. Meeting adjourned, with a good lunch served by our ever faithful Burnt Lake women folk. But before leaving, we arranged a meeting for next Monday, February 23rd, to discuss this meeting.

So a quick mid-week meeting was arranged, but we can not hold a mid-week meeting because (Oh boy, here we go again) nobody has time. And just last fall I heard complaints that there is nothing to do these long winters. We are all too busy to write our own history.

February 23, 1976 — executive meeting was held at the Centre. You may note that all meetings are executive meetings now, since everyone in the district is involved and now has a part to act out and there is no public left

out there. Now at this meeting, our president and regular chairman Oscar Johanson, was not able to attend, so we appointed a temporary chairman; meeting called to order at 8 o'clock. Minutes of previous meeting read and adopted. Then things began to happen fast, resolutions were moved, seconded and passed so quickly they got ahead of each other, but our secretary (bless her) was in great form and got some of it written down. It was resolved to send someone to Edmonton to contact the government to try to get a cash grant to start our bank account. Moved to accept advance payment on books, and also to accept interest free loans from members to build up our bank account. Incidentally our account did swell by \$100.00, not bad, \$100 a day! Now if only we can keep that up for 400 days. That's the way to write a book — only trouble is, no one has time to write.

Someone had discovered a semi-retired college professor living in our midst and brought him along to this meeting, and after some arm twisting, he volunteered to help our editor, and do a lot of other work. Now this will surely save us a lot of money, and it's money we don't got.

Our next big item was to choose a printer. This took a lot of talk; we finally chose D. W. Friesen & Sons Ltd., to print our book; Friesens being the only publishers we know anyway. We then opened up the packing case left with us last week, and we had a "ball"! We found carbon paper, note paper, scrap paper, receipt books, posters, envelopes, writing paper and many other items.

You know folks, I believe someone is going to break down and write something one of these days. Let me see now, I believe we have everything in order here now. I noticed our sub-chairman had quite a lot more to say than was necessary but the members took it all in their usual good stride.

February 27, 1976 — at the Centre, twelve of our most interested, and I must say our most interesting members met here; just to talk, no formalities, just a round table discussion about the book and our progress, and how we think we are doing. After two hours of this talk, we were served a good lunch and we talked and ate for another hour. It seems that we are making good progress and are about ready to start picking up the copies and do our proof-reading, then put it in order and see what our book will be like. This meeting was a semi-private meeting; just for the Burnt Lake group, and I hope the other five locals are doing the same. We left the meeting each with a specific area to canvass and get the copies coming in. Our next general meeting will be next Monday, March 9, 1976; there we will compare notes and plan our strategy for carrying on.

March 8, 1976 — at the Centre, with a good representation from the four districts. Tonight is the night we all assembled to hear the government representative explaining about the New Horizon grant. We first had the New Horizons program explained to us earlier by Mr. Charles Norman, the Edmonton Manager, who also gave us many valuable hints on assembling a book. The speaker in this case was Mrs. Clapson, a lovely person with a beautiful personality. She explained the New Horizons grant in great length and detail and finished up by saying "Are there any questions?" That was almost her undoing, because so many questions came in from the floor, that no one had ever thought of before. However, we did



Burnt Lakers at work on the book. T. to B. — Kay Johanson typing. Molly Lindman with map and brands. Kay Johanson, Edith Dallaire, Yvonne Matejka working on pictures.

agree to apply for the New Horizon grant and see what happens. We finished off the meeting with the West group serving us a lovely lunch.

It has come to the attention of someone that we have not yet applied for the New Horizon grant, which is supposed to be available for such projects as ours. So our secretary has made out a list of all the items we can use some grant money on, and our president is calling a meeting next Tuesday to make application for the grant. At this meeting we need ten senior citizens to sign the application. So we will all gather at the Centre and have a good time. The meeting was held and we did get ten signatures on the application for the New Horizon grant, a good lunch and an all around good visit.

April 19, 1976 — meeting at the Centre. This is the time to choose a name for the book. Nineteen members are present and we have 19 names to choose from. Now after much talk and fuss, the official name for the book is "Along The Burnt Lake Trail". The meeting adjourned and we forgot to set a date for our next meeting; so, be seeing you all the next meeting sometime.

June 9, 1976 — just had an executive history meeting at the Centre to make arrangements for a general meeting on June 24, 1976. At this meeting we compared notes and talked and had lunch. We did not get any business attended to, but we still feel that we are making good progress. We have contacted most of the writers and find nothing ready, but it is all coming in soon (as usual).

August 4, 1976 — We just had a general meeting at the Centre to look after the New Horizons grant which we received with some strings attached. We got it neatly tucked away, and soon got to the serious business of arguing about what we should do next.

We are making real progress now. Our first batch of copies have been sent to the printer and we will be able to start the winding up if we can just get the stragglers to come up with something besides promises. We may just frame their names and occupations in a special section and try to get them to put their mark under it.

I will now cut out the next 14 pages of this story as it sounds like a re-play, and will pick it up one week before the cut-off date. We are winding up and sending in all our copies. It will come back in galley sheets. We will spend six or more weeks reading and correcting, running forth and back to finish the job.

It has been suggested that we have an old time picnic get together and distribution day for the book. If so, we will see all of you at the picnic. It would be nice if someone would read this book some time.

Yours truly
Dwight Sawyer, Vice-president

THE FARM ORGANIZATION IN BURNT LAKE

The Burnt Lake community has in its possession the minute book covering the early years of the farm movement. The organizational meeting of the A.F.A., Alberta Farmers Association, Burnt Lake branch was held February 28, 1908. To read the minutes is a visit to the long ago past. Names appear such as: Mr. A. Hives, Mr. E. Carswell, guest speakers, and local names, A. G. Lindholm, T. B. Millar, S. Grimson, C. Johnson, A. Telning, J. Sveinson, P. T. Zoomwalt, A. Melstrom, G. Hammerbeck, A. Agren, and more. Many are still

familiar names, others dim echoes from the past, but we realize that each one was once an active member of our community. The Burnt Lake branch had for its president, S. Grimson, vice president, T. B. Millar, and secretary treasurer, Wm. Lowe. The then current farm paper called the Alberta Homestead was subscribed to.

The A.F.A. early came to grips with current problems and suggested remedies, as listed below. M.L.A. J. T. Moore was urged to use his influence to establish a pork packing plant; the terrible road condition of the Burnt Lake Trail was brought to the attention of the appropriate authority; the L.I.D. system of local government was given careful thought with suggested improvements to prevent abuses; compulsory hail insurance was advocated; the Alberta Central Railway was urged not to delay construction; equalization of freight rates between east and west was supported. To cut prices, a real effort was made to buy commodities in large quantities. Most common were twine, wire, formalin, coal, but even an attempt was made to bring in sugar and other groceries. This seemed to be not too successful, and in its place Co-operatives, both for buying and selling were supported.

The community itself was helped. The Zoomwalt home had been destroyed by fire and local men were organized for the re-building job. There was also agitation for better phone service.

In the January, 1910 minutes, it is noted that the name U.F.A., United Farmers of Alberta, replaced the old A.F.A. By 1915, the U.F.A. was preparing to enter politics, a move which was confirmed in December, 1916. In the meantime, the local was supporting the Burnt Lake Red Cross and Patriotic fund, two organizations active during World War I.

In 1930, G. S. Grimson became secretary treasurer, a post he held for many years. He was honored in 1955 for twenty-five years of service, and in 1947, the 40th anniversary of the local was celebrated.

On the local level, baseball and hockey teams were supported — whist drives were held — admission 20¢ for men, ladies with lunch free — net profit \$3.50 to \$5.00, plus a most enjoyable evening.

In later years, there were more educational programs, such as speakers on agricultural topics and support of the Farm Forum Broadcasts, on radio.

There had become two farm organizations in Alberta, the United Farmers of Alberta and the Alberta Farm Union. These two amalgamated in 1949 and the Burnt Lake local became a branch of the F.U.A. No. 1004. It continued as such until 1970 when the F.U.A. became Unifarm which it is at present.

Over the years it has continued to take part in local, provincial and federal affairs, pertaining to agriculture, from tree planting, to opposing export of gas, supporting surface rights association, and supporting co-operatives, and urging continuation of the Crow's Nest Agreement on freight rates for grain. On the lighter side, a very successful annual curling bonspiel has been organized, where neighbors meet in friendly competition.

THE BURNT LAKE F.W.U.A.

There are no records of the Burnt Lake F.W.U.A. further back than 1945, but from 1945 to 1969 there was an active F.W.U.A. in the district. Meetings were held



F.W.U.A. meeting.

every month except for a two month's vacation in the summer. Presidents were Mrs. B. C. Learned, Mrs. C. B. Pugh, Mrs. John Lindman, Mrs. Earl Grimson, Mrs. Ben Arlint, Mrs. Ernest Pearson, Mrs. John Silverberg, and possibly others. Secretaries were Mrs. Ernest Pearson, Mrs. Lorne Latam, Mrs. Murray Martin, Mrs. Earl Grimson and Mrs. Bruce Hagerman.

They supported the Mental Health Association, the Heart Foundation, the Cancer Society, sent young folk to the Gold Eye Lake Camp in the summer, etc.

Perhaps the greatest benefit a small women's organization makes to the district, is that it brings women out for a friendly visit; something they probably would not do if it were not for the day of the monthly meeting.

THE BURNT LAKE SAVINGS AND CREDIT UNION

In 1942 a group of Burnt Lakers gathered at the Sawyer home to discuss the Credit Union philosophy, and wound up by sending a letter to the Alberta government asking for advice. Soon Mr. Denny arrived in Burnt Lake representing the government and "whipped" the organization together. In 1943 we had a government charter and 45 members, of which no one knew how it should work. Then Frank Dallaire said: "Get some money in and we will soon see how it works". We all agreed to open a share-account and hold monthly meetings; the women brought lunch and we all had a good time.

At the end of the first year we had almost \$400.00 in shares, and we took the big step and loaned some money to a member, to be paid back on monthly payments. It worked so well that we soon had a revolving fund. In three years it had created more than three times the purchasing power of the money actually in shares. This went on for eleven years, then we moved our office into the village of Sylvan Lake where we could better serve our members.

A short time later when we dissolved the Credit Union, we found that all through the years we had paid a small dividend to the shareholders each year, and on dissolution we paid them at the rate of one hundred and eleven cents on the dollar for all of the shares. We also had created many thousands of dollars in new purchasing power. A small but very successful venture.

BASEBALL

In the late 1800's there were few families in the district and organized sport did not exist. The first school was built in 1894 and as more people moved into the area they would gather together and have small rodeos.

Baseball was probably introduced into the area by H. Ward, Dave and Harvey Jamieson and others. The game was readily accepted by the community and was kept going for many years. The first senior team may have been organized circa 1908. Swain Swainson, an original member of this team, played baseball as a school child in North Dakota before moving to the Burnt Lake district.

Some of the earliest games were played on SW 1-38-1-5. This was across the road from the J. Sveinson homestead. The ball diamond was then moved to NW 11-38-1-5, across the road from the present Oscar Johanson residence. The ball field was moved again to NE 33-37-15 and then to SW 3-38-1-5 which was the picnic site at that time. Following this it was re-located for the last time. Land was cleared by members of the team on NE 4-38-1-5 (Grimson quarter), and circa 1934 this diamond was opened and continued as a ball park until baseball disappeared as a district sport.

About 1916 Burnt Lake wore their first uniform which was red with white strips. A grey uniform followed in later years.

Baseball in Burnt Lake reached its peak in the 1920's and 1930's and diminished during World War II. After the war there were a few games played, but baseball was now really history for Burnt Lake.

They played against many teams through the years — Red Deer, Blackfalds, Sylvan Lake, Jack Pine Savages, Penhold, Shady Nook, Centerville and others. Burnt Lake played a good brand of ball and achieved notable success.

The games were not of the league variety, and many games were played on a one day tournament basis. Some of the games had high scores, but no one recorded the results although competition was keen.

It has been stated that during a tournament in Blackfalds, Burnt Lake won the first game and were strong favorites in the final. Between games, several Burnt Lake players decided to quench their thirst at the local pub. Burnt Lake lost the tournament. Another day with a tie game in progress, the third baseman, much to his distress, let the ball go through his legs and the other team (ShadyNook) scored the winning run.

Carl Engman proved to be an able umpire and officiated for many years. Following is a list of the known players for the Burnt Lake baseball club, starting with the earliest years. This does not state the length of time played as each person contributed as much as he was able. Dave Jamieson, Swain Swainson, Paul Sveinson, Fred Blaine, Sandy Smith, Wilton Mayberry, Wendell Mayberry, Grimur Grimson, Leo Johnston, Julius Grimson, Hilding Engman, Axel Johanson, Henry Ward, Leo Sveinson, Fred Grimson, Andrew Bjelke, Bill Fors, Art Bjelke, Howard Halvorson, Bert Cody, Gordon Halvorson, Harvey Jamieson, Henry Knoepfli, Ellis Sveinson, George Blaine, J. C. Mayberry, John Johanson, Dick Teasdale, Charlie Ross, Levi Erickson, Peter Stewart, Manly Sills, Gordon Stewart, Einar Einarson, Gunnar Bjelke, Carl Bjelke, Fred Sjoquist, Harold Bjelke, Alf Swainson, Dick Swainson, Roy Swainson.



Baseball Team — 1917. Standing — Swain Swainson, Fred Blain, George Blain, Manley Sills. Kneeling — Grimur Grimson, Paul Sveinson, Sandy Smith, Ellis Sveinson.

HOCKEY

The first semblance of hockey in the early 1900's took place on sloughs or on Burnt Lake. This came about when a skating party was held and then some shinny would be played. Some had skates and others did not but those without would still be in the game. Sometimes they would be lucky and there would not be any snow on the ice, but at other times it took considerable effort to clear a space for the sport. Sticks were anything that could be used; some had "sophisticated" bent willow or poplar.

In 1931 the Burnt Lake school teacher, Bert Cody, inspired the school boys to flood an area in the school yard for a fairly good sized rink. They practised on this type of rink for a few years. In 1935 the community decided to build a better rink surrounded by boards. This was made possible by donations from many members of the community.

Two aspiring hockey players, Andy Norby and Alf Swainson, made a thirty mile trip to a sawmill north of Sylvan Lake with a four horse team and a double bobsled to pick up the lumber for the rink. The lumber cost \$20.00 to \$30.00 per 1,000 board feet. The owner of this sawmill, Mr Hillstad, was generous to the two boys and tossed on extra lumber. The rails for the rink were donated by Mr. Langton and the posts by Mr. Grimson. The men of the community then levelled the area and put up the fence in time for the 1936-37 season.

The well at the school did not have a good supply of water so Mr. Dallaire's old water tank was used to haul water from Mr. Swainson's farm. In later years water was hauled from the Bjelke farm in barrels. Needless to say, this took a long time and much hard work.

At this time hockey became organized on a senior competitive level and this was the start of tough competition with other communities. The players were very loyal to their community and would give a hundred percent effort in all games. This competitive spirit would endure throughout the hockey history of Burnt Lake.

The fans also were very loyal, and this too would last through Burnt Lake's hockey history. After the hockey games, the ladies of the district would serve lunch to both teams and this was reciprocated by the other com-



Hockey team — 1935-36. Carl Bjelke, Howard Halvorson, Andrew Norby, Edward Norby, Gordon Halvorson, Arthur Bjelke. Dick Swainson, Roy Swainson.

munites. This helped to cool down the tempers and make the loss somewhat easier to take.

A rural hockey tournament was started in 1940. This was a one day affair and many teams participated. The teams might play three or four games before a winner was declared. Burnt Lake won this tournament many times and was allowed to keep the trophy after winning it for three consecutive years — 1948-1950. Shady Nook and Burnt Lake combined in 1945 to win the championship.

A new league known as the Big Six Rural-City Hockey League was formed for the 1950-51 season. The Red Deer Board of Trade put up a trophy which is now in the possession of the Burnt Lake hockey team. In 1950 the Highway 2-11 League was formed. Burnt Lake competed in this league and won the trophy on occasions.

In earlier years the players came from their own district; however, as time went on, imports were needed. Burnt Lake survived as a team until 1956; in the final years of the Burnt Lake hockey teams, most of their home games were played in Sylvan Lake or Red Deer. During this time many players from Red Deer, Sylvan Lake, Eckville and other centres played with the Burnt Lake team.

There were many exciting and hard fought hockey games played, and even though Burnt Lake was not always victorious, the other teams knew that they had been in a game. In a play-off with Mr. Cameron's team from Red Deer, a winner was not declared until the third overtime period.

Acknowledgement also goes to coaches and managers who worked for the team: George Daley, Tom Stephens, Gordon Keith, Cec Ritz and Fred Grimson.

Each player contributed to the success of the team whether he played for many years or less than one season. The following is a list of the hockey players with apologies to any who have been missed: Carl Bjelke, Gunnar Bjelke, Gordon Halvorson, Alf Swainson, Eddy Norby, Roy Swainson, Earl Grimson, Stan Swainson, Rodney Johanson, Ron Moore, Bryan Swainson, Dennis Johanson, Lloyd Sveinson, Sam Grimson, Wes Armeneau, Alf Cadman, Don May, Andy Whyte, Charlie Philips, Wayne Gillette, Tim Daly, Cecil Andrews, Glen Nelson, Len Blades, Jim Hawkins, Dean Suggett, Andrew Bjelke, Art Bjelke, Howard Halvorson,



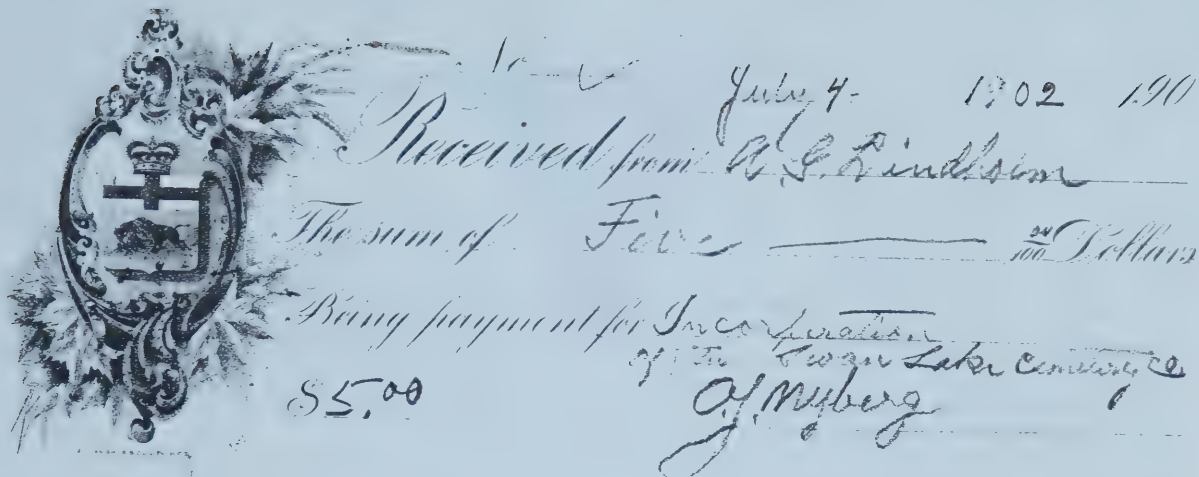
Hockey team — 1949. Back — Bryan Swainson, Cliff Halvorson, Joe Sveinson, Earl Grimson, Tom Stephens — Coach, Art Halvorson, Howard Halvorson, Hartley Johanson. Front — Stan Swainson, Dennis Johanson, Dick Swainson, Roy Swainson, Art Bjelke.

Dick Sveinson, Andy Norby, Robert Johnson, Art Halvorson, Ralph Johnson, Cliff Halvorson, Carl Bergstrom, Joe Sveinson, Tom Sveinson, Hartley Johanson, Glen Armitage, Joe Untinen, John Armitage, Roy Duncan, Norm Morrow, Jack Bardenhagen, Jim Merriman, Wilbur Craig, John McBeth, Keith Lyons, Don Blades, Chuck Curr.



THE BURNT LAKE CEMETERY

In 1900 an emergency meeting was called when Ulrika Agren, aged 13, died from tuberculosis. Otto Johanson donated 2.68 acres on the southeast corner of his homestead, SE 10-38-1-5, for a permanent area cemetery. Rev. Bergen of the Swedish Baptist Church conducted a dedication service just before the funeral. When a cemetery company was formed, Mr. Andrew Lindholm had the books. A title was issued, dated January 7, 1903, to the Swan Lake Cemetery Co. Shortly before his death, Mr. Lindholm brought the books to Oscar Johanson and asked him to carry on as secretary treasurer and manager. Early records were either lost or destroyed so entries of dates of death date back to only 1935, although a map in possession of Mr. Johanson indicates the earlier burials.



Funeral procession of Mrs. Carl Persson leaving the house for the cemetery, 1918.

In 1924, owners of the plots transplanted spruce trees from the SW 15-38-1-5. Mr. Andrew Lindholm and Mr. Gus Bjelke faithfully watered the trees hauling water for over a mile, using a horse drawn tank and then bailed the water out with pails.

About 1935 the name was changed to the Burnt Lake Cemetery for the sake of uniformity.

LUTHERAN CHURCH

The key families involved in the Lutheran church were: the Adrian Ericksons, Carl Forses, Olaf Nelsons, Charlie Johansons and the Carl Andersons, parents of Charlie, Stone and Carrie. Some of the members came from as far west as Evarts — driving horses, of course.

The services in the Lutheran, Baptist, and Mission Friends Churches were all held in Swedish in the early days.

Unfortunately, there was no regular minister. Students ministered to the needs of the congregation. Children of these original members recall taking confirmation classes for a whole year from a Mr. Leis. He lived at Charlie Johanson's, but they held the classes in the different homes. Some of those who were confirmed at this time were: Naomi Johanson, her sister Annie (Johanson) Davis, and Ada Fors (Mrs. Eric Bergstrom).

The church on sub. 9, NE 5-38-1-5 was sold with the land to Jamieson Bros. in 1912. There was one child buried in the little church yard instead of in the Burnt Lake Cemetery, but unfortunately, the spot is unmarked.

LUTHERN CHURCH

We have been fortunate to find a beautifully hand written page of early minutes.

On regular business meeting duly called and held by the Swedish Evangelical Lutheran Bethel Church of Swan Lake, Alberta, on the 12th day of August A.D. 1901 the following motions were duly carried by the said church:

- 1-, That we the members of the said church do gratefully accept Legal sub-division 9, of section 5, Township 38, Range 1 West of the 5th Meridian, kindly granted us by the Government according to letter dated the 14th day of May 1901, and File of same 610823;
- 2-, That we the members of the said church do hereby solemnly declare and promise to use ~~all~~ of said land exclusively in the benefit of said Church;
- 3-, That we the members of said church do accept the said land under the conditions stipulated by the Government in said letter, and that we thus bind ourselves to build a church within Three (3) years dated from the 14th day of May 1901;
- 4-, That we the members of said Church hereby instruct the trustees of the same to sign and send in the above declarations to gather with \$10⁰⁰ as patent fee for said land to the Department of the Interior, Ottawa, the said trustees being: Carl Fors, Axel Nelson and Adrian Eriksson.

This was obviously incomplete and precious.

In 1917 there was an effort to reorganize the church. They had monthly services in the Mission Covenant Church building, and the Rev. Herman came out from Red Deer. Mrs. Gus Bjelke and Ada Fors (Bergstrom) played the organ. These ladies also helped by playing the organ at the Baptist Church when necessary,

THE SWEDISH BAPTIST CHURCH

The church was organized in 1899 or 1900. They had their organizational meeting at Carlsons, SW 22-38-1-5. Those present included the E. P. Cronquists, John Halversons, Eric Johansons and Anders Agrens. Prior to this, services were held in the homes. Alfred Oman, an ordained minister, was the only resident minister there has been in the district. He lived with Anders Agren and was here at the time of the organizational meeting and the building of the church.

In March 1904, Eric Johanson (and team), Nick Halverson (age 14 years), Fred Agren (and team), and John Nilson (Mission Covenant preacher) went out south west of Evarts, in the Evergreen country, to cut logs and skid them out. At this time there was a mill there, and this is how they got the lumber for the church. The shingles, siding, and V-joint were bought. The benches made then, are still in use (1976). During the summer of 1904, with Mr. Ahland, a carpenter, in charge of the building and another man helping, plus some volunteer labor, the church was built. Mr. Ahland's son painted it

during haying. The church was located on the NW portion of the NE 3-38-1-5 in the townsite of Stockholm.

During the time of Mr. Bergen, who was a travelling evangelist, Mr. Jonas Smith was choir leader and used a tuning fork. Mrs. John Halverson, the Jonas Smiths, Eric Johanson (Senior) and the Anders Agrens were the choir. Part of the time Mrs. Otto Johanson played a guitar. Services in the early days were in Swedish.

The creek was deepened by the Old Ford on the Carl Edward Peterson homestead, and a cribbing was put in so that it could be used for baptisms.

The first funeral held from the church was for Mr. Carl Edward Peterson on October 1904 (see the Peterson history).

The community was served by student ministers during the summer months. They stayed in various homes and had other appointments as well as Burnt Lake. Mr. Wingblade, of Wetaskiwin, was here in 1909 and intermittently thereafter.

In 1911, the Provincial Swedish Baptist Conference was held here.

During World War I, Mr. John Halverson, who was a lay preacher, conducted services every other Sunday. After this, various denominations held services at intervals. During World War I, the organ was bought for \$65.00 from Eaton's catalogue. Before that, the Olson organ was used. Ellen (Johanson) Smith, Freda Smith, Julia (Olson) Johanson, and Ada (Fors) Bergstrom did most of the organ playing.



Baptist Sewing Circle taken at P. Olson's — 1913. Lars Petterson, Fred Sjoquist, John Smith, Mr. Mattson, Eric Mannerfeldt, Mrs. Mannerfeldt, Mrs. Jonas Smith, Mrs. P. Olson, Mrs. John Halverson, Mrs. Tom, Freda Smith, Carrie Anderson, Lydia Halverson, Ada

Fors, Ellen Johanson, Mrs. Lars Petterson, Mrs. Eric Johanson, Mrs. Fors. In front — Elvira Olson, Hilda Halverson, Julia Olson, Elizabeth Petterson.



1. Swedish Baptist Conference held at Burnt Lake — 1911. 2. Congregation — 1934 — L. to R. — O. Norby, A. G. Lindholm, F. Sjoquist, G. Bjelke, A. Lindman, Hilda Halverson, Freda Smith, Mrs. Lindman, Mabel (Anderson) Cromarty, Mrs. Ellen J. Smith and her children. 3. Ruth Bjelke's Sunday School Class — 1940's. Mildred Erickson, June Erickson, Sam Grimson, Roland and Norman Ammeter, Helen Swainson, Pearl Swainson, Geraldine Swainson, Marion Dallaire, Lily Grimson, Lillie Dallaire, Ruth Bjelke. 4. Baptist Church Congregation — 1925. Men seated — Reuben Johnson, L.

Pettersen, John Smith, Jonas Smith, Ole Larson (Minister), Mrs. J. Halverson, Chas. Johanson Sr., Mrs. Lindman, John in front, Geo. Johanson, Mrs. E. Mannerfeldt, Philip Anderson, F. Pearson, O. Johanson, Mrs. E. Johanson, J. Larka, Arvida Bjurstrom, Mrs. F. Pearson, G. Pettersen, Ellen Smith, Leonard and Alma Pettersen in front of Mrs. Pettersen, Mrs. L. Soderberg behind. Ladies on right, clockwise — Elvira Olson, Julia Olson, Annie Johanson, Agnes Anderson, Olga Lindman, Elizabeth Pettersen and Freda Smith behind.

There was Sunday School, off and on from the beginning. At first it was held in the Agren home, and later in the church. In the fall of 1922, Elvira and Julia Olson took charge of the Sunday School. On January 1, 1923, Oscar Johanson took charge and continued until November, 1961. There were many helpers during this time. Ruth Bjelke took an active part and carried much of the responsibility prior to her marriage in 1939. She played the organ, organized programs, acted as secretary-treasurer, taught a class, etc. We owe Ruth a great debt. Dorothy Grimson took over the secretary-treasurer's position from Ruth, and later Mrs. Oscar Johanson took the position. Other teachers were Elvira Olson, her sister Mrs. Carl Johanson (nee Julia Olson), Fred Sjoquist, Naomi Johanson, Mrs. Ellis Sveinson, Alberta and Lily Grimson, Lillie and Marion Dallaire, Mrs. Axel Johanson, Helen and Winnie Swainson, Mrs. Earl Grimson, Margaret Johanson and Dorothea Johanson. Oscar Johanson and later his wife Faith, naturally were also involved.

Many of the members contributed to the organ playing, while some of the men and boys contributed by keeping a supply of wood on hand and lighting fires — among these were Mr. Gus Bjelke and sons, Oscar Johanson and Jack Swainson.

From 1939 until 1960, Mrs. Oscar Johanson organized the annual Sunday School Christmas concert, which was traditionally held between Christmas and New Year's. The school concert ended with Santa presenting gifts off the tree and treats for the children while apples were distributed to the adults. Sunday School attendance prizes were presented at the close of the program and then coffee, made at Bjelkes, was served with lunch for all. The children were always given candy bags. Mrs. Axel Johanson made delicious popcorn balls for many, many years. The year of sugar rationing, each family gave a cup of sugar to Mrs. Carl Engman who did a wonderful job supplementing the limited candy available at that time. The co-operation of teachers and parents helped to make these productions highlights of the holiday season.

In 1947 the community repainted and re-shingled the south side of the roof of the church.

In January 1959, the local school was discontinued. The county bussed the children to Red Deer and to Sylvan Lake. This obviously made for divided centres of interest. At a Sunday School meeting October 29, 1961, at Axel Johanson's, it was noted by Oscar Johanson that attendance was low with very few children coming regularly. By October 1962, it was decided to inform the Swedish Baptist Conference at Wetaskiwin that the church was no longer in use. Mr. Wingblade and Rev. Mattson drove down immediately and made arrangements with regard to the disposition of the contents. They recommended that the benches be given to the Community Centre.

Later, the Property Committee of the Swedish Baptist Conference sold the property, but the disposal of the building itself was left to the discretion of the community. After many futile efforts to have it preserved, it was finally not moved, but left on the site of the new owner of the property.

For many years, Alberta Grimson and Alfred Swainson were enthusiastic members of the Sunday School.

Shortly after their marriage, they started a similar inter-denominational Sunday School in the Pine Hill district and carried on until their untimely death on December 6, 1953. Marion (Dallaire) Brown was also instrumental in organizing a Sunday School in her community of Pine Lake.

It was with a great sense of loss that the Burnt Lake community saw the demise of the rural Sunday School. We trust the character building begun in many such Sunday Schools will stand in good stead and be passed on to coming generations. The dedicated work of such men and women as Mr. Lindholm and Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Johanson is of inestimable value.

THE MISSION FRIENDS CHURCH — Excerpts from the Swedish Minute Book

A second church was organized in the hamlet of Stockholm (also known as Swan Lake and later Burnt Lake). It was sponsored by several families namely: the Andrew Lindholms, Matt Mattsons, and Andrew Telnings of Burnt Lake; the Oscar Norbys and Njorder Andersons of Marianne; also John Nilson (Nielsen in English) of Evarts. Axel Lindman is first mentioned in the 1911 minutes as treasurer, also Gust Hammerbeck as an elected trustee. The church was called "The Mission Friends" and was also known as the "Swedish Mission Covenant Church". The official name now is "The Evangelical Covenant Church".

Typical of early church congregations, they too, met in the homes of their followers. The first annual meeting was held at Matt Mattson's residence on January 31, 1903. The following trustees were elected: A. Lindholm (chairman), N. Anderson and A. Telning. Oscar Norby acted as secretary for this meeting. Another meeting was called on March 14, 1903 at which time the trustees minutes record: the women were to organize a sewing circle and the congregation was to receive all the monies. They were to meet on the first Wednesday of each month. Mrs. Hilda Anderson (Mrs. Njorder Anderson) was to be in charge. Communion was to be held once a month with Mr. Andrew Lindholm in charge of arranging the bread and wine. Mr. John Nilson of Evarts was to continue as minister until the end of the year.

On October 7, 1903 the trustees met at the N. Anderson residence. Mr. A. Lindholm and Mr. N. Anderson suggested they try to obtain a lot near the Burnt Lake Post Office for a church building — said building to be 24 feet x 28 feet with 12 foot high walls. Cost to be \$800.00. On January 19, 1904 it was decided to get rocks for the foundation of the church and to buy 2100 feet of siding and 1240 feet of flooring.

On August 5, 1905, Dr. Herdman of Calgary, later Moderator of Presbyterian Churches, and Rev. Forster, of Red Deer, came out to a meeting at the Swan Lake school house and presented the Mission Friends congregation with \$100.00 on behalf of the Presbyterian Church of Canada, and it was agreed that the Presbyterians be allowed to use the building.

September 18 of the same year a four month note for \$80.00 at 8% interest, was drawn on the Merchants Bank, Red Deer, backed by Bawtinheimer and Son of Red Deer. It was paid in full, \$80.00, plus \$2.35 interest at the Merchants Bank of Canada, January 20, 1906. Also at the annual meeting of 1906, it was noted that progress on the church building was to proceed as fast as possible, us-



Opening of Mission Friends Church — 1907. A. G. Lindholm house to the right. O. Wesslen house in background.

ing the bought siding and then planing the lumber they'd bought for siding. This was to be used for the interior finishing, with N. Anderson as overseer. Ten dollars was allocated to the women's group for cloth.

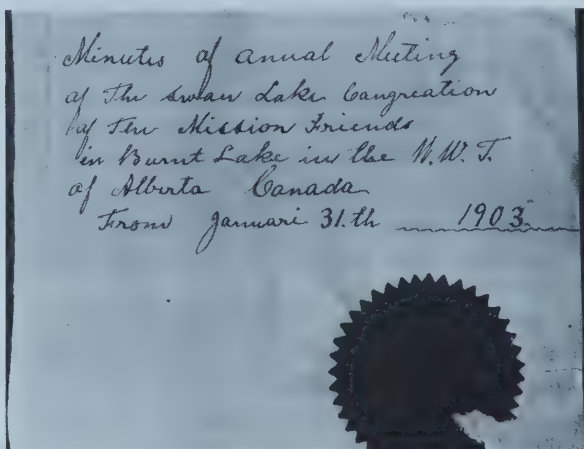
In 1907 services were to be held on alternate Sundays at 2 p.m. The following year, Mr. Lindholm was put in charge of the Sunday School and given the authority to obtain supplies for it. Mr. Lindholm was to continue guiding a most successful Sunday School for the next 15 years or more. Church services might be irregular, but the devoted services of Mr. Lindholm supplied a much appreciated service. By 1909 Mr. G. A. Sanden was in the area and was asked to preach anytime he could. In lieu of cash, he was to receive gifts of supplies.

In 1911 Mr. John Nilson was again invited to preach alternate Sundays and in July, the church was painted on the exterior using volunteer labor under the supervision of Mr. Anderson. The ladies agreed to pay for the paint. This was the year they decided to become part of the larger organization, The Mission Friends Union of Canada, with their headquarters in Winnipeg.

In 1912, Mr. Nilson was to receive \$10.00 from the congregational monies and \$15.00 from the women's group. In 1913, 12 Swedish hymn books were bought. It was reported — "no new members, no deaths, and no births in 1913." In 1916 it was noted that Presbyterians using the church were to keep it clean and care was to be taken of the furnishings. The ladies also requested that the church property be kept clean and free of animals. Income for 1915 is recorded as \$52.40, expenses \$34.85 with a balance of \$17.55 and 1916 as Home Missions — \$28.00 and expenses \$53.00.

During 1918 and 1919 the Salvation Army from Red Deer under Captain Joseph Action followed by Captain Fred Mundy came out on a regular basis. Other casual pastors mentioned were Chas. A. Jacobson, Rev. Hofstrand, Rev. Lindi, Rev. Swannstrom, and A. J. Carlson. These appear to have received the offering of the day. Again in 1921, John Nilson, now living in the West Park area of Red Deer, was asked to have services once a month, and he was to send the annual report to the church headquarters in Winnipeg.

In 1928, it was decided to disband. Some of the members had died, others had moved away and economic



Page from first annual meeting — Mission Friends Church — 1903.

5. Census To the Statistics office Ottawa
 June 5th 1911
 Name of Village *Stockholm* Alberta
 1 Location of Church *Win St. Lot 11 & 12 B2 P 27*
 2 Religious of Church *Mission Friends*
 3. Stating Capacity of Edifice *26 & 30*
 4 No of Communicant *37*
 5 value of Edifice and Lots *1,000*
 6 Sunday school *Mission Friends*
 7 No of officers in Sunday school 1. No of scholars 1
 8 value of land *apart from church \$25.*
 Sent in by *J. G. Lindholm*
Secretary of Mission Friends C.
Burnt Lake Alta

Statistics sent to Ottawa. Mission Friends Church — 1911.

conditions would not allow them to continue so the church and furnishings were turned over to the Winnipeg authorities. However, for many years it was used intermittently by the Lutherans and for funerals.

By the summer of 1943, Mr. Delbert Davidson, who was the minister at Winfield's Covenant Church, needed a church building. He arranged for the church to be moved. He and some men took the church down, moved it, and rebuilt it in Winfield. They put it on a stone foundation and added a porch on the front. Mr. Davidson moved away from Winfield in 1947. The building still stands there but is not used as a church now in 1976.

Oldtimers speak with nostalgia of the "Old Days" when, "Jul Otta", the early morning Christmas service, was held in this church at Burnt Lake.

THE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

The Burnt Lake Seventh-day Adventist Church had its beginning as such when the Sabbath Schools in the two districts, Burnt Lake and Centerville, united and the membership was organized into one company.

Early in 1903 the O. D. Fitch family settled in the Centerville district some six miles west of the present Burnt Lake community. At that time Mrs. Fitch was an Adventist. As far as we can ascertain, the next nearest Adventists were the Hippach family living four miles east of Lacombe. Sabbath School, supported by the Fitch family, was held regularly in the Fitch home from its beginning until the family moved to Red Deer in November, 1912. In the spring of 1913, the Rassmussen family settled in the district on the Peacock farm. The Thomas Thompsons came in 1914. These families were Adventists so meetings were again begun in the Thompson home. At this time it was called the Markerville Sabbath School. The Carl Pearsons became members of this group in 1915.

As the years went by and the membership increased, it became impossible to meet in the homes, so the Burnt Lake school was used for a few years, this being the most central place to serve all those concerned. In 1939 the congregation began to feel the need of a church building of their own, so on October 21 of that year a fund raising plan was entered into. Lots were secured in the Stockholm (Burnt Lake) townsite and work began in the



Burnt Lake Seventh-day Adventist Church — about 1944.



Burnt Lake Seventh-day Adventist Sabbath School — about 1938.
 Back — Roberta Pearson, Hazel Thompson, Doubtful, Pauline Bell, Doris Johanson, Virginia Blain, Wesley Bell. Front — Harold Hazon, Francis Pearson, Marie Anderson, Fern Johanson, Doreen Thompson, Eric Johanson.

spring of 1942. Olav Seland was chief carpenter and Elder P. A. Rick gave his wholehearted support. It must be said the members spent many days of free labor and supplied material towards the buildings. The first meeting was held in the new church August 15, 1942.

Officers at that time were: Elder — Bertram Bell; Deacon — Fred Pearson; Clerk — Mrs. Guy Fitch; Treasurer — Mrs. Robert Pearson.

We find that about the time the church was built at Burnt Lake, a company was organized in Red Deer. This led to confusion since the local church went by the name of Red Deer S.D.A. Church. Therefore on January 4, 1945, the local church name was changed to the Burnt Lake S.D.A. Church. This building served the membership from 1942 until 1969 when agitation began for a new building in the town of Sylvan Lake. Lots were purchased at the corner of 47 Avenue and 46 Street and work on the new church was begun on June 8, 1970. The church opening was held on March 13, 1971. Present membership is in excess of seventy (1976), at this time.

DO YOU REMEMBER —

— The first daylight saving, when rural schools didn't open until 9:30 a.m. in the winter months to accommodate pupils who had to travel long distances. Noon break was one hour and school was dismissed at 3:30 p.m.

— When we collected Red Deer Advocate subscriptions for the reward of an Advocate doll, or skates, or for fewer subscriptions, an Indian blanket.

— When the ultimate for a little girl was to find an Eaton Beauty doll with the gifts Christmas morning. After so many years, mail order to Eaton's catalogue ceased May, 1976.

— When breaking land meant feeding, grooming, harnessing and hitching up 10 horses to a 24" breaking plow, working four hours, unhitch, water and feed for a noon break — then another four hours of work, and repeat the process of caring for the horses. How they loved to be free of the harness and how they appreciated the care with which a good horseman examined them for shoulder sores and washed the spots if necessary. When free to run, they enjoyed the luxury of a roll on the ground. There was an old legend that a horse was worth \$100.00 for every time it would roll from one side to another.

— When on April 1, 1975, we changed from fahrenheit to centigrade, or celsius scale to record temperatures. And in 1977, kilometers replaced miles.

— When we regulated the heat in our homes by manipulating dampers in the pipes and stoves, rather than turning the thermostat up or down.

— There's the story of the Lithuanian, Jewish peddler who came to buy horse hair at Grimsons. The boys, Fred and Einar, were sent out, and came back with the hair and were paid. When the peddler drove off he could be heard — when he discovered his horses' tails were trimmed to the core.

— May 4, 1919, cattle were turned out to pasture on Burnt Lake. There came a terrible snowstorm. Cattle drifted with the storm and perished along fence lines.

— In 1924 — there was a gigantic hailstorm. It broke windows in the homes and wiped out the crops in a wide area. It went through Red Deer and smashed all the windows in the exhibition buildings, as well as in the homes. Chickens lay dead in the yards, and the Indian folk who were in the area for a conference, went out in the fields and picked up dead prairie chickens after the storm. The day before was hot and the squaws were out snaring gophers.

— In 1933 — a bad hailstorm with stones the size of hen eggs broke windows on the northwest side of buildings. It smashed the canvas car tops and dented the chassis on cars. Carl Johanson was caught in the field, working with eight horses. He got them unhooked and up to the barn, but had to stand there and hold them during the storm: The crops grew quickly after this storm.

— In 1931, an open winter, Oscar Johanson was fencing in February, 1931; a straw hat replaced winter headgear. Seeding was done in March. The first rain came the 17th June and periodic showers followed with warm weather. A bumper crop was harvested.

— 1947 — a wet fall. The threshing crew didn't turn a wheel for 28 days.

— 1951 — A terrific snowstorm in March. One could drive over the railroad fence in places, and in other places the tops of the telephone poles were covered with snow.

— 1934 — A cyclone appeared in the area, a funnel shaped black cloud. It started in the Marianne district in the area of the Wayne Koure's farm and ended up in Sylvan Lake where the damage was done. It tore the roof off a barn, the chimney off the school, uprooted a tree in a yard but didn't touch the house. It upset Knut August

Staudinger's house as he was sitting peacefully inside peeling potatoes. It sucked the cream cans off Charlie Palmer's Creamery stand and some of his chickens came back plucked. A Mr. Bannister was taken off his porch and dropped in a field.

— Quoted from the Western Producer, November 1976: "In 1976, C.P.R. Hotels were celebrating 90 years of hospitality all across the country. As a treat to customers they were charging prices that prevailed when they started up in business in 1886, or as near as the law would allow. For one day, October 25, you could have a 24¢ sandwich lunch and in the main dining room a four course dinner with choice of steak and kidney pie, poached salmon or an eight ounce sirloin, choice of three soups and dessert — the whole thing for 89¢, with drinks at 42¢ for scotch, 37¢ for gin, 40¢ for rye, beer 40¢. Liquor laws prevented reverting completely to 1886 prices. For breakfast, you got a choice of juices, then a choice of hot or cold cereal, then two eggs any style with ham, bacon or sausage, toast or rolls, coffee and jam for 32¢".

— Mustard plasters and/or linseed poultices. When you had a mixture of sulphur and molasses in the spring. The time when blood transfusions had to be paid for in cash before receiving one. They were given directly from donor to recipient. When you had your chest rubbed with warmed goose grease. When you wore a little bag with camphor around your neck to protect you from colds and communicable diseases.

— When your hair had to be braided or curled and tied up with ribbons.

— When you had to wear starched underclothes as well as dresses — how they scratched!

— When you had to iron starched clothes with a flat iron.

— When cars went up on blocks for the winter for there was no ploughing of roads.

— The squeak of sleigh runners on the snow. The sound of sleigh bells.

— Tie rails, tie sheds, and livery barns instead of parking meters.

— Eaton's catalogues in the outdoor toilets.

— The thrill of a new catalogue — girls searched the pages of dolls, while boys in the family wore out the harness pages first.

— A miracle happened — In the late 40's coming home from Sunday School, one winter morning with a carload of young children, the Oscar Johanson car hit the ditch at the Burnt Lake Cemetery corner. The children exclaimed, "If only we had a horse". It seemed hopeless, but scanning the horizon we saw a horse coming from the north. It came closer and closer and believe it or not, it had a harness. We stood across the road with arms out-stretched to stop the horse. By using the halter shank, we got out of the ditch. We turned the horse loose, and he trotted home. He had got away from a baling outfit on Burnt Lake and headed for Bjelkes, his home.

— An almost forgotten family the **Sundquists**, who lived for a time on NE 36-37-1-5. They were cousins of Mrs. Eric J. Johanson. Later Mr. Sundquist found employment at the brick yard in Red Deer, then went to a homestead in the Pigeon Lake area. Also the **Ralph Drost** family who lived on the N.E. 26-37-1-5 in the early 1960's.

Dear Sir

I have sent you 15 American whiskey
for \$2.50 per gallon and I would like to
it should be sent
I see one that is 3 of June I will
now and I will pay it when I get it
Take it

address

Arch Nelson

Box 100

Alto

Wetaskiwin June 4. 1900

Arrel Nelson Esq
Red Deer

Dear Sir

In answer to your P.C.
Re Prices on or Signor
in case lots 12 Bottles to a Case
Imperial \$10.50 in Sur then a Case \$1.00 per Bottle
Seagrams 83 \$13.00 - - - 12.50 -
" Sealed \$10.00 - - - 1.00 -
" White Wheat \$10.50 - - - \$1.00 -
in lots of one gallon. five gallon lots
Imperial \$4.50 - - - 4.25 -
Seagrams 9 years old \$4.50 - - - 4.25 -
" 5 - - - 4.00 - - - 3.75 -
" White Wheat \$3.50 - - - 3.25 -
Walkers Old Rye \$3.50 - - - 3.00 -
Cognac \$6.00 - - - 5.50 -
" 5.00 - - - 4.75 -
Scotch Whisky \$5.00 - - - 4.75 -
" 4.00 - - - - -
Good Native Wine \$2.00 - - - \$1.75 -

one gallon jar will cost you 50¢ & 3/4 extra
Two - - - 75¢ -
five - Rye \$1.50 -

Trusting to receive your valuable order

I am yours
Respectfully
Wilo Schmidt



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between
Gran'ma
and me"

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(A PAIR, \$4.50) DUTY & POST PAID (A PAIR, \$5.50)
Just to introduce this remarkable cloth we offer a pair of well-cutting smartly cut Trousers for only \$1.50, Breeches \$2, or well-cut suit duty-up-to-the-minute in fashion for \$4.50 all Duty and Post Paid. With every garment we send a printed guarantee plainly stating that if the smallest hole appears in 6 months (NO MATTER HOW HARD YOU WEAR IT) another given absolutely free. We pay all charges Post and Duty. You have no more to pay.

FREE SAMPLES: Send merely 2 Cent stamp for grand free pattern, measure chart and fashion to our Toronto office. THE MOLEPROOF CLOTHING CO. (Dept. 4) - ITS HURON STREET TORONTO, ONT. or send \$1.00 for sample pair of Trousers (A pair \$4.50) with waist and leg measure and colour, direct to England. Don't send money to Toronto.

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Six hundred dollars is the price of the Ford run-about; the touring car is six fifty; the town car nine hundred—f. o. b. Ford, Ont., complete with equipment. Get catalog and particulars from Ford Motor Company of Canada, Ltd., Ford, Ont.

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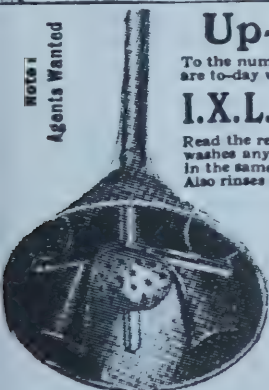
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It washes by compressed air and suction. It has patented and exclusive parts found in no other vacuum washer. No power required yet your washing finished in half the time.

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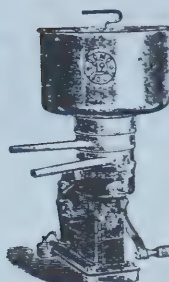
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ODE TO THE WEST — by Isabelle Heigh

The problem in Canada — may I be so bold,
Is not too much wheat or the fact it's not sold
But toil culture, etc. that takes up the time
In parliament house where they sit and recline,
Three years they have spent on the new language bill
On who's taking dope or using the pill.
They say money talks and maybe they're right,
'Twas money or lack of it got us into this plight.
But the language it talks does not seem to matter,
The fact that we have none makes me mad as a hatter.
When granaries are bulging and piles on the ground
And the quota says "no sir" — not even a pound.
Our taxes aren't paid and we're way in the red.
"Let them sell their own wheat" was what Trudeau said.
Some farmers tried it, cross the border to sneak.
The Wheat board clamped down — go to jail for a week.
In the fields grain is piled up to rot in the sun,
And children are starving — still nothing is done.
We farmers out West are in horrible plight,
We've hollered and fretted, but no hope in sight.
Down at the Lakehead (Thunder Bay I am told),
Is the place where the ships come to fill up their hold
But how can the ships come and load up the grain,
When it's still laying out on the Great Western Plains?
They say there's no box cars, they're needing so many,
A whole winter's passed and they haven't found any.
We will have to do something. Heaven knows what?
Even the grownups may start smoking pot!
One thing I will say on the farm I am sure
The air here is sweet and the water is pure.
With a garden to grow and livestock to feed,
We are much too busy to take to the weed.
But think if the farmers did not grow a thing,
Where would we get bread and steak come next spring?

BURNT LAKE BRANDS

RH
T5

P. Butuk

RR
3P

F. Dallaire

LH
FF

Mrs. I. Frisch

RS H
α4

R. L. Frisch

RH
OF

C. Fors

RR
3D

S. Grimson
G. Grimson
E. Grimson
Leafy Ridge Farm

RT (H)
N4

S. Grimson

LH
HE

E. Hamson

LS (H)
EH

E. Hamson

LR
H-H

Hagerman Bros.

LR
ZH-

B. Herder

LS
JA

A. Johanson

LS
JIN

E. J. Johanson

LT (H)
EJ

E. J. Johanson

LR
OJ

O. Johanson

RR
DU

A. Kroetsch

LH
AL

A. Lindman

RS
JL

J. A. Lindman

LR
JM

T. B. Millar

LJ (H)
EM

T. B. Millar

RH
N2

A. Norby

LH
MP

M. Proctor

RH
XIX

O. Wold

RH
OK

R. Wold

LH
ZY

J. D. Yoos

LR
SO

O. Selstrom

RR
KL

C. V. Lindholm

RH
TV

J. Beattie

RR
JF

T. J. Finner

RH
JY

J. N. O. Flett

RJ (H)
JT

T. Armstrong

RT (H)
WF

J. Flett

LT
S

J. Sveinson
S. Swainson

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F

P. T. Zoomwalt

RH
RD

J. A. Swainson

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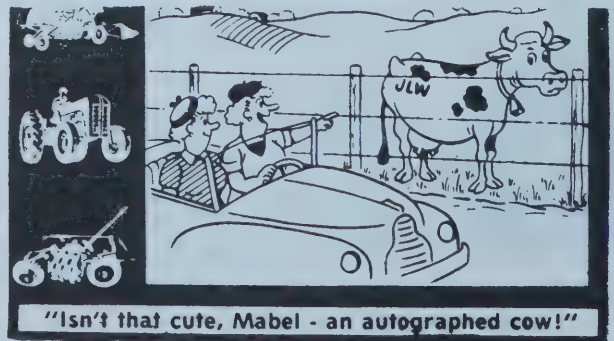
E. Johanson

LR
2J

J. Johanson

LR
OS

A. Telning



AGREN FAMILY — by Lillian Armeneau, a granddaughter

Anders Agren was the son of a poor family of fisher-folk on the east sea coast of Sweden. His home village was Jattendal and the nearest town was Hudiksvall. He went to school only two days in his life; yet surprisingly, he learned to read and write in a sort of fashion.

When he was a young man some Baptist missionaries had a series of meetings nearby. He attended them, was converted and became a vastly changed man by that conversion. At the time this mission was going on, a young lady was visiting in the neighborhood. She was the daughter of a bishop, or some other ecclesiastic, high in the Lutheran Church. She attended those Baptist meetings and also was converted, as she was not satisfied with the church she was brought up in, and the gospel, as delivered by those missionaries, seemed to be just what she was looking for but had not hoped to find. This changed her course in life. She and Anders became acquainted, fell in love, and were married. The wrath of her father was kindled against her. How could she lower herself to the point of marrying an ignorant, crude fisherman so much beneath her! . . . Well, it appears she married for love, not for money and social status, nor even for what a woman in the middle class would want and expect to have. Her father disinherited her and disowned her. To this day, none of her descendants, so far as can be ascertained, know any of her relations. They don't even know her family name, although her Christian name was Sofia.

When Mr. and Mrs. Anders Agren heard of western Canada being open to immigrants they, in common with other Swedish people who wished for more and better things, decided to pull up stakes, launch into the unknown and put down their roots in a new land. It was hard to leave their homes, friends and familiar surroundings, possibly never to see them again. The fact that they must learn a new language was rather dreadful. Doing without many things until they could afford them would mean lots of unpleasant experiences, no doubt.

The Agrens had three children when in 1893 they crossed the Atlantic: **Eric Frederick, Hanna Margaret and Mary Ulrika**. Eric signed himself E. F. Agren, but he was called Fred. In 1900 Mary Ulrika died of consumption, the old name for tuberculosis, aged 13 years. Hers was the first burial in the Swan Lake, later Burnt Lake Cemetery. Anders Agren homesteaded the NE 14-38-1-5 and Eric Frederick homesteaded the SW 16-38-1-5.

The Agrens had Swedish neighbors, which was nice for them. It seems they were all brought up as Baptists so they had religious affiliation as well as everything in common where nationality was concerned. When they could afford to build a church, they did. As a community undertaking, it undoubtedly did something for them. That church became a definite point of interest in the Agren family history, as you will find out as you read on.

Mr. and Mrs. Agren were very ambitious people and got ahead steadily. They had about twenty dairy cows by the time the family was grown up. Mother and daughter did the milking and much of the other work in the cow stable. Swedish menfolk were brought up to believe that was women's work. Hanna didn't approve of that traditional idea. It grieved her to see her dear mother, suffering with rheumatism, out there attending to the

cows everyday, but she couldn't handle all that work by herself.

When a young French Canadian, named Jules Armeneau, went to the Baptist Church he met Hanna. He visited her in her home and they became quite fond of each other. She was "quiet, polite and beautiful", so her future mother-in-law declared. Hanna was very surprised and glad that Jules never let her mother go out to do the milking while he was around. He did it for her. In many respects, Hanna was deeply impressed by Jules' behaviour; not that he was a refined man, because he wasn't. He hadn't been brought up by a mother of the upper class of society and, consequently, he didn't possess the refinement his lady friend did, but he was sincere, considerate and kind. They were widely separated in some ways; had such different backgrounds with different customs and spoke different languages, although they both had learned some English. She was quite musical; had a lovely voice and could play the organ and guitar. She, her brother Fred, and their parents used to sing in four parts; soprano, tenor, bass and alto, in that order, respectively. Jules loved that, but he himself wasn't musical at all. Hanna's parents approved of the warm friendship enjoyed by their daughter and Jules, who finally became engaged and married with her parents' blessing on their union. Mr. Agren gave them a piece of land and other things. Hanna received a beautiful new organ as a wedding gift. In time, Jules built a fine big home which still stands on NE 10-38-1-5. and was occupied for years in turn by the Frank X. Dallaire family and the Trachsel families and now by Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Johnson.

When Hanna and Jules moved to Saskatchewan, her father helped them with a loan which was greatly appreciated.

Mrs. Agren, Sr. died in 1907 less than a year after her daughter was married. She is buried in the Burnt Lake Cemetery. She was a jewel, a wonderful woman, Jules said. Hanna and Jules lived in the Agren home while her mother lived so they could look after her in those months she was slowly dying of inflammatory rheumatism.

Mr. Agren returned to Sweden and remarried. He brought his wife to Canada, but she was most unhappy. Actually, she was too old to readily learn a new language and become adjusted to life in a new country. They returned to Sweden in 1913-14 with their little daughter, **Henrietta**. That girl died when she was about 15. She had a brother **David**, who was born in Sweden. There was a span of over 32 years between him and his half-brother Fred. David is married and living in the district where he was born. A missionary, a young lady who went from Canada to Sweden, visited David Agren and his wife. Through her, the Armeneaus in Kelowna, British Columbia, got first hand news of their half-Uncle David whom they never contacted because he couldn't write English.

FRED AGREN died in 1966, in his latter 80's. Very little is known about him as he didn't write to the Armeneaus. His wife did, though. She kept up a continual correspondence with several of Hanna's in-laws, including Jules' mother. A lovely person she was and still is, although she is now disabled due to a stroke she had several years ago. Fred and Anna Agren had three children: **Harold, Hildur and Mary Ann**. Harold died overseas, with the American armed forces in World War



Anders Agren Family, taken before 1900. Back — Hanna, Fred, Mary Ulrika. Front — Mr. and Mrs. Anders Agren.

II. His sisters and mother live in Washington. Those sisters look after their mother, taking turns, having her in their homes. Not long before Mrs. Fred Agren had that stroke she came with Hildur and Mary Ann up to Canada to visit all the Armeaneaus. They were in Alberta, Saskatchewan and British Columbia. What a happy occasion that visit was! Very heart warming indeed.

One thing omitted from this write-up is the visit the Armeaneaus, (Jules, Hanna and family) had in the Burnt Lake district in 1917. Jules had bought a new Ford a year or so before and that car took the family for a most thrilling trip to the place where Hanna and Jules lived before moving to Saskatchewan. It was wonderful for Hanna to visit Mrs. Axel Lindman, who was her close friend, and other folks in the district; Olsons, J. Halversons, Smiths, Johansons, and Cronquists, to name a few. They talked in Swedish and had a most enjoyable time reminiscing. While at Burnt Lake, the Lindman home was headquarters for the Armeaneau family. The children of both families played together. Olga Lindman was just a wee girl then. John had not yet arrived, but all six Armeaneau children were there. Harold, the youngest, was only a little over a month old at the time.

In the history of the Armeaneau family you can read more about Hanna, so it won't be repeated in this story.

THE J. S. AND GERALDINE ALBERT STORY

The Albert family came from Ontario with their seven children in 1918 and settled on a farm just north of the Trail where it went through the Condor district. They carried on a large operation here until the family grew up and went out on their own.

A detailed family history will be found in the Rocky Mountain House history book as told by young Raymond, who is now retired and living in Sylvan Lake, Alberta.

PETER AMMETER

Peter was born in Russia in 1900. He was the third oldest child of Mr. and Mrs. Peter Ammeter. The family owned a large farm in Russia, but in 1933 after the revolution, his parents left Russia to live in Switzerland. In 1929 two of his brothers came to Canada. The oldest is living in Manitoba, the third youngest stayed a year and

returned to Switzerland. A brother John came to the Marianne district in 1937 and is still living there.

Peter was the first to leave Russia in 1925, going to Switzerland, but stayed there only four days. He commented that "a pair of shoes would have taken a month's wages to buy". He then went to France to earn enough money to come to Canada. He stayed in France four years during which time he was married.

Peter and Freda came to Canada in 1929. It was about a twenty day journey, and about eleven days of these were spent at sea. They had twenty dollars left when they arrived at Nelson, British Columbia. There they were acquainted with a neighbor from Russia, Peter Vergen, a Doukhobor leader. Through him, Peter purchased a fruit farm and worked out besides. Because he wasn't acquainted with fruit farming, he sold the farm there to the West Kootenay Power and Light Co. and then worked for this company and the Kootenay Power Dam project for sixteen months, receiving 75¢ per hour. The family, Peter, Freda and their two children, born at Nelson, came to the Red Deer area in 1933. That first year, they rented land in the Poplar Ridge district. He remembers putting up hay on Burnt Lake on the Lamoine place. It was here he met Dave Sarman from whom he purchased the SW 16-38-1-5 in the Burnt Lake district in 1934. (Mr. Sarman and family made the move to Russia to live. He left in March and was back in July disenchanted.)

There are three children in the Ammeter family; **Analise**, born in 1930 lives in Calgary; **Roland**, born in 1932, lives in the Prevo district; **Norman**, born in 1933 while the family lived at Poplar Ridge, is living in the Prevo district. There are seven grandchildren.

Mrs. Ammeter passed away in 1938 and Peter was left to raise the family with the aid of housekeepers.

The farm in Burnt Lake was sold in 1946 to Bernard Arlint from Saskatchewan. After a few months, Peter bought a farm in the Poplar Ridge district, which was sold in 1967. He lived in British Columbia for eight years and returned to the central Alberta area in 1975. He is presently a guest at the Sylvan Lake Lodge.

SAMUEL AND KARITAS ANDERSON

In 1888 when the first group of Icelandic settlers arrived in Alberta, the Sigurdur Arnason (Samuel Anderson) family was amongst the fifty people making up the group.

Samuel Anderson left Iceland for Gimli, Manitoba in 1875. There, in 1876, he met and married Karitas Olufsdottir, another more recent arrival from Iceland. Several families left Gimli due to extensive flooding in 1877 to farm in North Dakota. There difficulties encountered resulted in eleven families and some single men deciding in 1888 to move to Alberta. An interesting account of the move and some of its difficulties is contained in a short unpublished paper written by one of the settlers in 1898, a copy of which is in the possession of Mrs. Anne Bickley.

In 1888, Markerville area and homestead land along the Medicine River were filed on by, amongst others, Samuel and Karitas Anderson. But the proximity to the river (which yielded a good supply of fresh fish) resulted in frozen crops the first two years. Samuel moved his

family to Burnt Lake where he homesteaded the quarter where Swain Swainson now lives, NW 2-38-1-5.

Three of the Anderson children came with their parents to Alberta: **Sarah**, born in Gimli in 1878, **John**, born in North Dakota in 1882, and **Fred**, born in North Dakota in 1886. The two youngest children were born at Burnt Lake, **Sadie** in 1890 and **Mundy** in 1891.

Stories of the hardships of those early years include one relating to the scarcity of food — and the careful raising of one pig over the winter. While the family carefully saved all food scraps for the pig, including fish trimmings, they dreamed of a feast of pork in the spring. When the great day arrived, the anticipation turned to dismay when the pork was discovered to be so tainted by the pig's fish diet as to be inedible!

Sarah Anderson's stories of those days included instances of the help given the early settlers by the Indians who advised and assisted with hunting, fishing and sometimes, medical aid. When Sarah was 13, she became very ill with what was later thought to have been pleurisy. Convinced that she was going to die, and afraid of infecting the younger children, she had found herself a bed on some sheepskins in the lean-to adjoining the log house, when an Indian couple came to call. The man examined her, sent his wife to gather some roots and herbs, and made a "tea" which he gave Sarah to drink. Her fever abated and she was on the road to recovery.

Mrs. Anderson was well known throughout the district as a mid-wife and assisted at the births of all but one of Sarah's nine children. She also assisted at the birth of her first great-grandson, Milton Wilson, in 1923. Most of the settlers raised sheep for their wool as well as the meat, so the spinning wheel was a necessity. Mrs. Ander-

son spun the wool into yarn to help clothe the family by knitting socks, mitts and sweaters for all. This craft she passed on to her daughters.

Samuel Anderson died in 1902 at 75 years of age. That same year his son John, filed on a homestead in Ridgewood. Until Mrs. Anderson sold her farm to Swain Swainson in 1916, John helped her, worked on his own homestead and did carpentry in Red Deer. Mrs. Anderson died on May 27, 1926. Both Mr. and Mrs. Anderson are buried in the Burnt Lake Cemetery.

John was known as a good neighbor, with a great sense of humor, and the gift to make over and make do. In 1922 when the Ridgewood Hall was built most of the work was done by donation and John helped with this work by helping with the cement work as well as the carpentering. In 1926 he sold his Ridgewood farm and moved north to Moose Portage with the Billy O'Neill family from Shady Nook. In January, 1932 he returned to Red Deer where he died in April of that year.

Fred, along with other young men in the early 1900's, worked in lumber camps in the winter months. He was at Rocky Mountain House in 1906 when he had an attack of appendicitis. He was taken by wagon to his parents' home at Burnt Lake but was too ill to go on to Red Deer. His brother John rode into Red Deer to get a doctor, however, the medical attention was too late, and Fred died, at 20 years of age.

Sadie married Hilding Soderberg and their story appears elsewhere in this book.

Mundy, youngest of the Anderson children, joined the army and went overseas in World War I. On his return he married a widow, Mrs. Minnie Miles, and they moved north to Breton, Alberta. They did not have any children and Mundy, who was predeceased by his wife, died in 1973 in Breton.

In 1898 **SARAH** married Stephen Wilson, and although they did not reside in Burnt Lake except for a brief period about 1910, Sarah returned to her mother's home for the birth of five of her children. They were **William John** (1899), **Samuel Frederick** (1901), **Dorothy Elizabeth** (1905- died 1907), **Catherine Anne** (1907), and **Beatrice Elizabeth** (1909). Their daughter **Lillian Emma** (1910) was also born at Burnt Lake while the Wilsons were operating the "stopping house".



Mrs. Karitas Anderson — early 1900.



Steve Wilson Family — about 1911. Back — Mr. Wilson, Bill, Sam, Mrs. Wilson and Lillian. Front — Anne and Beatrice.

The three youngest Wilson girls were **Helena Monica** (1913) born at Red Deer, **Dorothy Gladys** (1914) born at Red Deer, and **Frances Patricia** (1917) born at Ridgewood on John Anderson's farm where the Wilsons lived from 1916 to 1926.

In 1926 when John Anderson sold his farm, Sarah Wilson and her daughters, who were still living at home, moved to her son Sam Wilson's farm on the Burnt Lake Trail in Shady Nook. Stephen Wilson worked in Red Deer for R. B. Welliver in the real estate business, and was well known in the town until his death in 1939. Mrs. Wilson later moved to Red Deer, where she purchased a home near the Chinese Market Gardens, on 43 Avenue, and where she lived until her death in 1947. From the time she lived in Ridgewood, she raised a foster son, **Harold Soderberg**. Her home was always open to friends and family and her good sense and good humor in the face of difficult times endeared her to all who knew her.

Harold Soderberg came to live with Mrs. Wilson when he was sixteen months old and was educated in Red Deer. His father, Einar Soderberg, served in World War I and Harold was with the Canadian forces in Italy in World War II. He married Sylvia Pascula and they have two sons, **Hal** of Edmonton and **Tim** in Red Deer. Harold is now assistant postmaster in Red Deer.

FRED ANQUETIL

Fred Anquetil was born and raised on the Isle of Man in the Irish Sea. He came to Canada early in the 20th century. By 1909 he had homesteaded in the Leslieville area, been robbed of his provisions by his partner, and given up the homestead as a bad job.

He then made Red Deer his home and married Agnes Erickson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Adrian Erickson of the Burnt Lake district. One daughter, **Gretchen**, was born to them.

During World War I Fred served with the armed forces overseas and was badly shell-shocked. When he returned home, he and Agnes made their home (from 1919 to 1924) on NW 7-38-28-4. Following this they lived in Red Deer for years. Fred worked as night policeman, and also managed the Royal Canadian Legion headquarters when it was located on the corner of Ross Street and 51 Avenue.

Mr. Anquetil is remembered for his humour and pranks. Every March 17 he painted a new coat of green on the fountain that used to stand at the edge of the sidewalk on Ross Street, between Gaetz and 49 Avenue, in front of what is now the post office. The fountain consisted of a large bowl or trough from which the horse teams could drink. Behind was a drinking fountain for people, and lower down was a small bowl for the dogs. This annual painting was something everyone expected and looked forward to with amusement.

The Anquetils spent their later years in Calgary. Mr. Anquetil passed away in 1969. Mrs. Anquetil is at present (1976) a resident of Central Park Nursing Home in Calgary. Their daughter, Mrs. Gretchen Spicer, also resides in Calgary. Her husband, Harold E. Spicer, passed away suddenly December 25, 1965. Gretchen has two daughters, Geraldine (Mrs. Murray Caig) and Marilyn (Mrs. Herb Prentiss).

BERNARD AND OLGA ARLINT

We had a sale in Saskatchewan and moved to Alberta. It was February 14, 1946 when we first came to the farm, SW 16-38-1-5, which we had purchased from Peter Ammeter. That was the day of his farm sale and we bought the cook stove.

Our daughter **Leila** was seven years old at the time. We were three miles from the Burnt Lake School east of us and the same distance from Marianne School to the west. Since buses were unheard of in those days, she walked most of the time to the Marianne School. Leila was very fortunate to have Mrs. Doran for a teacher. I was amazed at the number of books in that school library, for she brought a different one home every night.

Our son **Kenneth** was with us also. The large barn on the place was newly built, but through some error, the ceiling was lower than it should have been and since Ken was over six feet tall, he had to duck his head to go in and out.

When anyone is new in a district and does not know a soul, I think that the first contact with the neighbours is really remembered with delight. One mild day shortly after we arrived there, I saw a man coming down the road with a large sack on his back. It turned out to be John Sauter bringing us a bag of vegetables. What a pleasant surprise!

Our neighbours to the south were the Andrew Halvorsons. They called and had Miss Cutler, the Burnt Lake School teacher, with them. Mrs. Halvorson must have noticed that I had mashed potatoes with a bottle, for the next time she came she brought me a potato masher. Believe me, I really cherish it to this day!

We sold our place to Martin Durajeik and moved away November, 1946. We now live a short mile from Sylvan Lake. Our daughter Leila (Mrs. Otto Radies) lives in Armstrong, B.C. Our son Ken is at present at home with us. We have six grandchildren.

ARMENEAU FAMILY HISTORY — by Lillian Armeneau

Julien Armeneau wasn't yet twenty when he left his native land, France, to come to eastern Canada. He had almost no education because his mother and younger brothers and sisters depended on him to support them. When he was able to strike out on his own, he decided Canada was "the promised land" — so many people in Europe were promised a good living if they were willing to work hard and save! He knew nothing but long days of hard labor all his young years, so he didn't dread the thought of more work from morning until night if there was a future worth striving for.

In 1881 he married a French Canadian girl, a Protestant, named Delphine Fortier, age 19, who was the eldest of a huge family. What poverty they endured! Four children were born in about four and a half years. Mrs. Armeaneau had a big garden, milked cows, churned butter to sell, prepared wool for spinning and knitting from their own sheep, made the children's shoes as well as the clothing, and even helped to make harness! She was a little woman — weighed less than a hundred pounds, but she was very intelligent, clever and quick. Thus she was able to face the hardships of pioneering in the west. Learning a new language was the most trying thing she found.

Mr. and Mrs. Armeneau and their five children: **Felix, Jules, Camille, Louise** and **Dan** left Lake Megantic, Quebec, for Red Deer, N.W.T., in June 1901. Reports of farmlands being available to settlers there made them decide to sell their small farm at a great sacrifice so that their four boys could have new farms of their own when they were grown up. Three of them were already in their latter teens.

Mrs. Armeneau was expecting her sixth child in a few months, which made it difficult for her to get ready to leave for the North West Territories. (The prairie provinces had not yet been formed in those territories.) The Armeneaus knew almost no English, had very little education and hardly any money. However, hope of a future far better than the past, made them determined and courageous for the move, regardless of what it meant to leave their kin and their home to live as pioneers in a new area, "starting from scratch". When they took that long, slow train trip, they suffered from the swaying and jerking, the hard seats and lack of "creature comforts" that people nowadays take for granted in all modes of travel. What a relief to put their feet on the ground again!

Upon arrival in Red Deer, just a village then, they went to the Immigration House where they stayed until they obtained other temporary lodging. The inconveniences, the lack of even some basic supplies and uncertainty of "how? when? where?" they would be settled with a fair amount of household necessities was a worry, of course. The only consolation they had was that dozens of other settlers were going through the same experiences as they. Other folks around them were confronted with the language barrier, people of many nationalities and various backgrounds. Felix filed on a homestead, NW 28-38-1-5, that same year, 1901. His father secured his, NE 28-38-1-5, in 1905; Jules, SW 28-38-1-5, and Camille, NW 22-38-1-5, both got theirs the next year. All these homesteads were near Sylvan Lake, in fact, the town is partly on what was Felix's land.

The three eldest boys were all strong, healthy and used to hard labor — ready to take on any job! As the country around Red Deer was just opening up, there were many kinds of work for able bodied people, but to make good wages many lads and young men went to British Columbia to work in the forests, cutting trees for lumber companies. Wages were \$1.00 per day with board. Of course a dollar then could buy a lot more than it does

now. Many farmers got a start by working as woodsmen in the winter months.

Felix, Jules and Camille went to the Kootenay area in south-east British Columbia. They helped pay for their father's farm, which wasn't a long-drawn-out undertaking for them, because they didn't yield to the temptations around them — the wild, reckless spending indulged in by their fellow woodsmen. Their mother had taught them the evils of tobacco, liquor and seducing women and they stayed clear of them. They were true to all the principles of morality and thriftiness learned at home. Thus they wasted no money. Actually, they earned extra dollars by cutting hair and mending shoes, etc. for the other woodcutters. Sometimes they were able to send their whole cheque home. Their dad was a smoker, but finally their mother convinced him it was wrong to be "burning up part of the money the boys so faithfully sent home". When he was persuaded to break off that habit, he was sick for days, but he wouldn't give in to the craving for a smoke. Success and happiness came to him, finally. He never smoked again. His sons were so glad about his victory they sent him a lovely racoon fur coat. His wife saw tears run down his face; he was so touched by that gift. He was 52 years of age.

When the farm was paid for and he had saved some money, he went back to France in 1915 to visit his kinsfolk and friends, while his wife Delphine and 14 year old youngest daughter **Helen** went to Quebec to visit her people. Those were the only trips they took as vacations, the only time they ever went back to see their relatives.

The three eldest sons, now men, weren't satisfied with their location. Roads were terrible because it rained so much. There was a very poor market for farm animals; for instance, dressed pork was only 3¢ per pound. It was slow, hard work clearing the land. What future was there for them with no hope as yet in sight for better marketing? Better go to the bare prairie in Saskatchewan where land didn't have to be cleared. Furthermore, lots of land had been surveyed, ready for homesteaders to take over. Settlers could have their pick if they went before a flood



Left — Mr. and Mrs. Julien Armeneau and Helen. Right — Mrs. Jules Armeneau and her children; Evelyn, Fred and Lillian — about 1913.



Mrs. Armeneau Sr. is seated between her daughters-in-law, Mrs. Camille Armeneau (left) and Mrs. Jules Armeneau (right). The biggest girl is Helen, daughter of Mrs. Armeneau Sr. The other two are Mrs. Jules Armeneau's girls. Hazelwood Hotel, Sylvan Lake, in background.

of newcomers rushed in. But the Armeneaus didn't leave right away. In 1911, Dan was old enough to file on a homestead. He was small, but wiry, brave and ready to take on risks and to accept setbacks in a lonely, new country beset by violent, sudden storms, with no towns nearby and extreme privation at times. Three Vasseur brothers had just returned from taking land on the prairie and they had great hopes of doing well there. Dan listened eagerly and attentively to their stories. He made up his mind to try his luck out there, too. He went with oxen and horses to a homestead near the Montana border. Dan's departure made his two eldest brothers follow in 1912 and 1913, but not to the same part. They went north-west of Gull Lake, a little village on the C.P.R. (transcontinental line). Dan decided to give up his homestead, to go up to where his brothers had settled.

Camille, "the brilliant boy of the family", was furthering his education at an academy near Lacombe. There he met and married Alpha Dail who had come there from California. Jules married Anna Agren, a Swedish lady who lived at Burnt Lake, in the year 1907. They had three children when they moved to the Gull Lake area. Dan and Felix were both single yet, a pair of brothers who were real pals, never quarreling. All four brothers were fond of each other and got along well.

In 1916, a few years after moving away, the Armeneau brothers heard through their mother, who wrote regularly, that their Dad had died unexpectedly in his sleep. Their Mother sold the farm and with her daughter Helen, moved to the home of her sons Felix and Dan, not far from Jules' place. These sons, working in partnership weren't satisfied with the sandy land they had and moved to a farm about 22 miles south-east, near Gull Lake. Mother and sister went with them. Dan being a born mechanic, did some custom work repairing tractors and stationary engines, and other machinery.

Farming was a gamble and without news media, as we have nowadays, without weather forecasts, without farm organizations to unite farmers in marketing; the prairie fires, the fierce winds that destroyed buildings not made to withstand them and savage storms coming up suddenly to kill animals, to say nothing of severe drought, many prairie farmers were really discouraged at times. Thus many moved from dried out areas, often hail-struck areas, and farmland not suitable for fields that should never have been plowed up!

The Armeneaus suffered some disasters, but were far luckier than some of their neighbors. In the fall of 1918 that dreadful plague or epidemic, of Spanish influenza that took more lives than the War of 1914-18 did, reached Gull Lake, going westward. In January 1919 it was in Jules' home and it took his wife Hanna, leaving him with six children: Evelyn, Lillian, Fred (then called Camille), Roland, Grace and Harold; the eldest only 11 years old and the youngest less than two. Grandma (Jules' mother) and Helen left the comfortable home they had with Felix and Dan, to live with Jules and family, enduring poverty and looking after those six youngsters. Crop failures had made hardships too many to describe.

Dan went down East to visit in 1918, near Christmas time, and brought back a young English lady, Elizabeth Jones, whom he married in a few months time. Felix was married not long afterward to a French Canadian lady, Philomine Dinelle, a few years older than he; however

their marriage turned out good, after a very short acquaintance. Jules was remarried, over three years after Hanna died, to a Scottish Canadian lady, Margaret Ellen McColl. She was a wonderful woman. Jules' children likely could not have had a finer stepmother.

The sandy land where the family had lived since leaving Alberta was often unproductive due to minimal rainfall. Jules sold beef he butchered to take to farmers around — there were no freezers nor refrigerators in those years — and to stores as well. Money thus earned helped to keep his big family. He also was a clever repair man, inventor and veterinarian of a sort, making a few dollars that way. In his repair shop he had a forge, so he reset wagon and buggy tires, sharpened plowshares and did general blacksmith jobs. He also had a cobbler's sewing machine with which he repaired the family's shoes in winter, as well as binder canvasses for himself and neighbors.

As time went by, farming was gradually replaced by ranching in that sandy area. Many farmers had left and in 1923 Jules was finally persuaded by friends and the neighbors he used to help, to move to Tompkins village, 15 miles distant, to start up a repair business. He got a rented shop at the back of a garage occupied by Moses Vasseur, his former partner in threshing (for themselves and others when they farmed close together). A poor house with a leaky roof became the Armeneau home. This wasn't easy to accept because the family had left an eleven room house on the farm, not luxurious but having many conveniences and gadgets Jules had invented and installed.

Not long after the move to Tompkins, there was a death. Helen, a most dear auntie, Jules' younger sister, died due to a kidney failure that developed after a fall from a horse at Sylvan Lake many years previously.

Camille, his wife and adopted son Sylvan, lived for about three years, from 1913 to 1916, near Jules, but they moved away to British Columbia shortly after their wee adopted daughter Evangline died less than a year after they got her. They went to Nakusp; then moved to Kelowna where they spent the rest of their lives. Camille died comparatively young due to cancer, it is believed. Alpha remarried, but remained a very faithful aunt, most kind and generous to her nieces and nephews.

Dan and Felix and their wives spent a few years at Bladworth, Saskatchewan. There, four children were born to Dan and Lizzie: Lillian, George, Lawrence and Wesley. Felix had no family. He suffered much with stomach trouble, gave up farming and went to Kelowna. There he raised fruit to earn a living. His wife was a fine, thrifty housekeeper which made the livelihood better for them.

While at Bladworth, the Armeneaus had their elder sister, Mrs. Harry Watson (Louise) and her husband nearby. The Watsons had three children: Walter, Orville and Helen.

Poor crops discouraged them all. The Watsons went west to Kelowna, near Felix and Philomine. That was their last move, except to another house. Harry died about the same time as Camille, leaving Louise with her three young children. She was a plucky, hard-working, economical little woman who made the best of her lot, living in shocking poverty, but keeping her family

together. They weren't lazy children; all did their part. A book could be written about that family.

Dan was such an ingenious inventor that had he been financially able to patent his inventions, he could likely have made his stake. Had someone backed him, he could not only have patented but manufactured some useful equipment; so we heard from him and others. He and his family all left Bladworth and lived in Tompkins a short while before going to Sylvan Lake, which he had left when he was a youth. There, the fifth child, Yvonne, was born. Lizzie had poor health, but she managed to raise the children, who have done well for themselves.

Jules had one child, John, with his second wife who died of tuberculosis when her son was 14. That lady was "one in a thousand". After about two years, Jules married an Irish lady, Annie Mae Johnson. About four years later they moved to Kelowna, in 1945. There they lived until death took them; Jules in 1971 and his wife in 1976. For many years she had suffered from severe brain damage due to three successive strokes, which confined her to a nursing home.

When Dan and his wife both passed on in 1974, there were no more Armeneaus of the first generation left. The second generation numbers only fourteen persons, most of whom live in British Columbia and Alberta.

Short accounts of the Armeneaus who were grandchildren of Mr. and Mrs. Julien Armeneau — written in August, 1976.

Jules' family — Evelyn, after working for other people many years, married a rancher, Fred Kynaston; now a widow and retired at Maple Creek, Saskatchewan, not far from her family. Lillian was a teacher for many years but her career had a space in it of thirteen years due to tuberculosis and helping at home; now retired in Kelowna, British Columbia. Fred is a welder and an inventor of machines, etc. used by fruit growers; but now mostly makes parts for White Truck Co. at a small factory in Winfield, British Columbia. Roland was a teacher, later a dairy farmer; now retired in Kelowna, but keeping busy helping other folks. Grace is a housewife, married to a C.N.R. despatcher, Tom Webster; both retired near Westbank, British Columbia but she babysits for the pure pleasure of it. Harold became an inventor and manufacturer of machinery used in the lumbering business and manager of Monashee Manufacturing Co. at Kelowna. John was a trucker many years before turning to business, and now is in a real estate agency at New Westminster.

Camille's family — two adopted children. Evangeline died in infancy at Tompkins, Saskatchewan. Sylvan was a notable member of the Vancouver Police Force; died a few years ago.

Louise's family (she was Mrs. Harry Watson). Walter joined the Civil Service of the Canadian Government, Ottawa, while young; now retired from it and living at Guelph, Ontario. Orville went into an automotive business, became half owner and manager; now retired at Vernon, British Columbia. Helen was married young to a bus driver, but she worked in packing houses; died in 1975.

Dan's family — Lillian worked as a clerk; later married Charles Mitchell and went to live at St. Louis, Missouri, where she is still. George is a bulk oil agent for Imperial Oil Company at Eckville, Alberta. Lawrence

was in various kinds of business; now on a farm and dealing in antiques near Valleyview, Alberta. Wesley is a wholesale business manager in Edmonton. Yvonne is married to a welder in oil business and is at present (1976) overseas.

Felix and Helen Armeneau, eldest and youngest of Mr. and Mrs. Julien Armeneaus family, died having no children.

JOHN R. ARMSTRONG

In 1919 the Armstrong family arrived in the Burnt Lake area from California with the idea of establishing a huge cattle ranch. The family consisted of Mr. and Mrs. Armstrong, a son **Vivien** and a daughter **Bertha**, and a pre-school daughter **Phyllis**. The adult members of the family formed the Armstrong Farming Company and occupied Sec. 5-38-1-5 known then as the Michener land, and also three quarters on Sec. 33-37-1-5. They brought with them hundreds of cattle. Disaster struck almost immediately. The winter of 1919-20 was particularly severe, the snow not disappearing until May. The cattle could not endure the change of environment, feed was insufficient and the majority perished before spring.

The Armstrongs moved the following year to SW 4-38-1-5 and carried on there until about 1926. They next purchased from the Hudson Bay the SE 8-38-1-5 but were only there a short while. Both Mr. and Mrs. Armstrong's health was failing and they moved back to California from whence they had come.

Mr. Armstrong always kept his sense of humor and good spirits in spite of repeated setbacks. He could be counted on to entertain by relating tales of varied experiences. Guests remember listening on the radio to the Sunday afternoon church services. When it came time to receive the collection, Mr. Armstrong with a chuckle and twinkle in his eye, would solemnly place his offering by the radio. A very important member of the Armstrong family was **Miss Molly Emerson**. She was a middle-aged lady of great stamina. She was housekeeper, cook, poultry fancier and dairy maid. She was a devout Seventh Day Adventist, and always kept her day of rest. Mrs. Armstrong and daughters were often away to California, but Molly kept the house running smoothly and efficiently. She was loved by all.

PETER ARNOLD

Peter and Nellie Arnold and son **John** came to live in the Burnt Lake district in 1972. They bought the acreage from Elmer Tomalty, SE 27-38-1-5, a subdivision of the former Frank Lindholm property.

The Arnolds were from Armstrong, British Columbia. Peter was a cattle buyer and dealer, and corrals and improvements were added to the building site for this purpose. The Arnolds left in February, 1973 and went back to British Columbia. The property was again owned by the Tomaltys of Red Deer, who in turn sold it to Milton Proctor in 1973.

CARL ASPLUND

Carl Asplund was born and lived in Buenos Aires, Argentina as a child. His mother was Spanish and his father was Swedish.

When he was in his early teens his father took him to Sweden to further his education. The young lad was very interested in minerology and graduated from the Univer-

sity in Sweden with a degree as an assayer and also a degree in pharmacy.

He was always pleased to help the young high school students with their problems in chemistry and algebra. He spoke three languages fluently, Swedish, English and Spanish. He went back to Argentina after he finished at the University in Sweden and lived there for several years before coming to Red Deer, Alberta.

In 1901 he filed on a homestead, NE 4-38-1-5, in the Burnt Lake district. He bought himself a small log house and lived there quite comfortably for many years. He was a great reader and surrounded himself with books and papers. He was also a lover of good music and had an Edison phonograph and a quantity of choice records which helped him pass away a good many hours. He farmed in a very small way and worked with the neighbors on their farms.

By 1920 he was getting very rheumatic and it was hard for him to look after himself. He lived with Mr. and Mrs. Swain Swainson for six weeks, quite helpless and then the County of Red Deer decided something must be done for him and it was decided to send him to Rest Haven, a Seventh Day Adventist Home in Vancouver. Mr. Sam Grimson took him there but they could do little for him as the arthritis was too well advanced. He came back to Alberta and this time arrangements had been made for him to live with Mr. and Mrs. Gustav Bjelke where he received good nursing care until he died in the spring of 1927.

Swain Swainson bought the farm and sold it to his son Stanley, who now lives there.



Carl Asplund — before 1900.

DONALD AND ALICE BALLANTYNE AND FAMILY — written by Alice Ballantyne

Don was born in Unity, Saskatchewan, September 3, 1914, the oldest son of William and Ethel Ballantyne who farmed in the Muddy Lake district south of town. His parents were from Smith Falls, Ontario, descendants of early Scotch settlers. Don attended public school in Muddy Lake, high school in Unity and Battleford Collegiate.

I (Alice) was born in Mildenhall, Suffolk, England, December 20, 1917, the seventh child of Alice and Joe Strawson. Our family emigrated to Canada, and Muddy Lake became our new home in April, 1926. This country was a complete shocker to my rather easy-going parents, but we youngsters soon became adapted to a different way of life. After finishing public school at Muddy Lake, I took high school by correspondence courses.

The depression and drought of the early thirties hit my family hard, before they had gained much of a foothold at farming, and it was a struggle to maintain a bare existence. We discovered all the joys of a waterless homestead; prairie fuel (cow chips) and to cap it all off along with no crops, there were no gardens! Don's family were much more fortunate. Being prosperous farmers by the time the depression hit, with a good herd of Hereford cattle, and excellent farm land, they weathered it through in fairly good shape.

By the mid-thirties several families had given up and gone, and many of the older district boys and girls left in search of work. In 1937, Don followed suit, climbed on a freight train and headed east. He eventually found a job with the International Nickel Company at Sudbury, Ontario. After saving a little money, he came back to Unity, and started farming in 1939.

I went to Vancouver where some of my family had moved, and worked at various jobs. I returned to Muddy Lake two years later to take my turn as housekeeper for my Dad and the boys.

Don and I were married at Unity, October 22, 1941, and continued farming, mostly in the Muddy Lake district. William Wallace was born at Scott, March 9, 1943, and Maureen Ann at Unity May 25, 1945. All along Don was making plans to buy land in Alberta, and settle there. In 1948 when the children reached school age, and our old school, Muddy Lake, had closed down due to lack of pupils, we went to Alberta. In the Burnt Lake area, we bought the N½ 11-38-1-5 from Oscar and Axel Johanson.

As Don and his Dad were moving a load of machinery to Burnt Lake in the fall, the truck and tractor and other machinery caught on fire in a howling wind, and burned up near Consort, Alberta. The men were amazed at the prompt action and help from farmers and ranchers who were afraid of prairie fires. On the hill, the smoke was visible for miles away and there were people there from 40 miles distant.

We bought a house from Axel Johanson and moved it on to the southwest corner of the half section, then, after wintering in Sylvan Lake, moved on in April 1949. Allan Bruce was born in Red Deer June 10, 1949 and four years later on March 23, 1953, Elizabeth Lou arrived.

The three older children attended the Burnt Lake school and all went to the Burnt Lake Sunday school. I joined the W.I. and acted as president, treasurer and secretary throughout the years.

In 1954 we bought the NE 36-37-1-5 from Roy Swainson (the old Ellis Sveinson farm) and moved on in the fall. These were the "wet years" in Burnt Lake and getting our children to and from school was a big problem.

One of our main jobs every summer on the farm as the herd of cattle grew, was to cut and stack hay on the lake. Later we switched to bales and these all had to be stacked on the fields, and hauled home when time permitted. It became a common sight to see most of the family out on the lake during summer and early fall, with the simple home-made bale-boat as one of our most useful implements. The boys and girls helped whenever possible when they were home.

When Bill first started high school, he often walked to the Burnt Lake Trail to catch the school bus into Red Deer. Once the school bus system was firmly established, all the children went by bus to take their schooling in Red Deer.

All through the years we thoroughly enjoyed the active social life in the Burnt Lake district, the picnics, concerts, card parties and anniversaries, etc. Our own 25th Anniversary was celebrated at the Community Centre in the fall of 1966, with the younger three of our children present.

Allan was a member of the Ridgewood 4-H Beef Club, and Beth a member of the Ridgewood Beef and Ridgewood Sewing Club. Later on Allan became a member of the Sylvan Silver Spurs Horse Club, and was president for one term. During the winters we curled at Sylvan Lake and Red Deer.

In our latter years on the farm, as the work increased, Allan spent week-ends and holidays helping out, and in the fall of 1974, we sold the farm to him and retired. We now spend the winters in Victoria, and the summers on the farm.

William continued his education in Edmonton to get his B.S. in Agriculture. In October 1963, he married Judith Anne Graden of Stony Plain, and in September 1965, they moved to Michigan where he got his Ph.D. in Agriculture and Masters in Business Administration. They went to Toronto where he worked for Canada Packers. They now (1976) reside in Edmonton, still with Canada Packers. They have two children, Mary Katherine six years, and David John, four years.



Ballantyne Family — April, 1975. Back — Bill, Maureen, Marilyn, Allan, Alice and Don. Seated — Beth and Richard Bearchell.

Maureen, after finishing high school in Red Deer, got her B.Ed. in Edmonton, and taught at Bowden and Sylvan Lake schools. She moved to Victoria and has taught at various schools there, and lives in Victoria.

Allan finished high school in Red Deer. He worked in Red Deer for a couple of years following, and then went to S.A.I.T. for four years. Here, Allan received his journeyman papers in carpentry. In the fall of 1974 he purchased his father's farm. On April 26, 1975 Allan married Marilyn Linda Norby of the Burnt Lake area. They reside on the home quarter (NE 36-37-1-5) from which they both travel each day to work in Red Deer, Marilyn as a registered nurse at the Red Deer General Hospital and Allan as a carpenter.

Elizabeth, (Beth) took high school in Red Deer and worked there before and after her marriage to Richard William Bearchell of Red Deer. They now live in Kaslo, British Columbia.

ED BARRY

Ed and Joyce Barry lived on NE 22-38-1-5 approximately one year from April 1960 to April 1961. They purchased this quarter section from George and Marj. Williams. It is believed the couple were from Calgary. Ed was a trucker and was related to Professor Barry, the famous horse trainer.

The one room house, 18' x 20', didn't have any modern conveniences. Neighbors recall Mrs. Barry telling of one time when she attempted to light the gas lantern with her own know-how before her husband got home from work. She pumped it with air, turned on the gas and lit the match. It flared up in flames and, being petrified, she grabbed it and flung it out into the yard.

The Keith Gideon family bought the property from the Barrys and moved onto the farm in 1961.

A. A. E. BATCHELOR

Alfred Batchelor was born in Chute, Dorchestershire, England in 1892. His father died a month before he was born and his mother was left with his small brother, sixteen months old, and himself to care for. They were very poor but they had a small farm and sold milk and butter to the people in the village. His mother sent the boys to school in London by the time they were 10 and 11 years old.

In 1912 Alfred arrived in Canada, and after working at several jobs, he took up a homestead in Kindersley, Saskatchewan. On August 4, 1914, war was declared and the men of the country joined by the hundreds. Towards the end of August Mr. Batchelor was in Valcartier Camp near Quebec city. He was badly wounded on the Somme and lost his arm on March 21, 1917 but was back in the fighting forces within a few weeks. Mr. Batchelor got leave to go to London and there he attended an investment at Buckingham Palace and received his Military Cross from King George V. He was very pleased that he had been able to take his mother with him.

Next came the trip back to Canada to his homestead at Fusilier, Saskatchewan where he hired men to build a small house and to put in a field of wheat.

In 1920 he met Catherine Will, a girl who had come out from Scotland with her brother. They were married on May 13, 1920 and he found he had made a very wise choice; a better wife or mother of his children no man could have had. There were three daughters and son born

to them: **Barbara, Mona, Catherine and Kenneth.** Barbara served as a sergeant in the C.W.A.C. in the Second World War and Kenneth enlisted, but took sick and was discharged.

They had a farm at Alix and returned there to live after Alfred resigned from the army. He found it difficult to settle down so he sold his farm at Alix in 1945 and bought another one in the Burnt Lake district from Mr. Ellis Sveinson, NE 36-37-1-5, who unfortunately died suddenly soon after.

Mr. Batchelor was aging and he knew he was past the age for farming so he sold the farm a year later and moved to Sardis, near Chilliwack in British Columbia. Here he was offered a job as mess secretary for a school of two hundred and fifty cadets from universities across Canada. Those cadets would take two years training there during the summer holidays and then two years training in the field.

Soon after this, there was a disastrous flood and the village of Sardis had to be evacuated. Mr. Batchelor found the coastal climate was not agreeing with him so they sold the house and moved back to Alberta where they bought a farm at Water Valley. They kept that for one year and rented the land. They sold the quarter and bought a small piece of seven acres where they lived until Mr. Batchelor died suddenly January 11, 1969. Mrs. Batchelor lives with her youngest daughter, Catherine, in Chilliwack, British Columbia.

JOHN BEATTIE by Mrs. Jean Brown

In the summer of 1909, my father, John Beattie, travelled from Santa Rosa, California, to Alberta. From the town of Red Deer, he took numerous horse and buggy trips with real estate men and finally decided to purchase a quarter section of land in the Burnt Lake area, namely NE 2-38-1-5, from a Mr. Zumwalt.

My father was born in the south of Scotland and at the age of four, his family moved to the south of England where he grew to young adulthood. He became a "pupil teacher", taught school for a short while, then signed on for a three year term in Queen Victoria's Household Guards in London. After a year, becoming bored with life there, he bought himself out and with a few companions sailed for New Zealand and Australia. In the latter country he and his friends worked for his uncle on his sheep ranch in the "out back". After a few months he sailed to Hawaii and from there to California.

It was in Fresno, California that he met my mother who was a school teacher. After their marriage they moved further north where my father was involved in cleaning up operations in San Francisco, following the big earthquake of 1906.

After some months on this work, and managing an apple ranch, my father had a great urge to go to a place known as "Sunny Alberta". Mother said he read and talked so much about the place that she finally agreed to try it. This meant that she would again be under the Union Jack, because at the age of ten, she had moved with her family from Ontario to California.

As soon as we heard from my father that he had purchased land in Alberta, my mother and we four children, **Percy, Jean, George and Janet**, with a young woman friend to help on the trip as far as Vancouver Island, boarded a boat at San Francisco and travelled up the coast to Victoria. Mother and the friend were laid low



George and Janet Beattie, about 1912.

with mel de mer, but we children ate hearty meals and quite enjoyed ourselves on the boat.

The C.P.R. train which carried our party through the Rockies to Calgary, consisted mostly of Colonial type coaches. You pulled out the slatted seats to make beds. There was a small stove at one end of each coach. The north bound train from Calgary took us to Red Deer where a democrat and driver were hired to transport us and our luggage to the farm at Burnt Lake. We were soon settled in the new, two storied, frame home.

My mother was a resourceful woman, and was equal to the great change of climate and the new life. She liked the country life and found the new neighbors kindly and helpful. They were nearly all of Icelandic or Swedish extraction and were very good farmers.

The crops grown consisted mainly of oats, wheat and barley. The threshing machine and crew of men arrived once a year to thresh the sheaves of grain which had been stooked to dry in the fields. This meant an early breakfast and fairly large meals, to be prepared by the housewife. Sometimes sheaves were stacked in beehive shapes to thresh or to keep for winter feeding.

The little one-roomed school accommodated children from about eight families. We walked the mile or two, each day, to and from school carrying our lunches. When the neighboring Sveinson children drove a team and cutter in the winter, we almost always had a ride which was most welcome.

Church services were held in the schoolhouse in the summer months. Usually a student conducted these services as part of his training for the clergy. For some time the Reverend Gilbert McKechnie, a blind minister, was our preacher.

In 1918 my father sold our farm to Erick Johanson, and all the family except Percy, who had joined the army, travelled back to California. The First World War ended so back we came to Sunny Alberta and this time we settled in the Bowden area.

I taught school near Bowden for a time and then married George Brown who had served three years with

the railroad troops overseas. We settled in Lethbridge where George was engaged in the construction of the C.P.R. irrigation system to Medicine Hat, and later in its administration.

My father passed away in 1933 at the Olds hospital. My mother passed away in a Calgary hospital the following year. Janet and our two brothers, Percy and George continued to operate the farms at Bowden and Janet later married Fred Radford. They later sold out and all moved to Shuswap Lake in British Columbia. A year or two later Percy and George retired to Vancouver where George continues to live.

Janet passed away in 1974 and Percy lived only until the following year.

Since I became a widow in 1968, I have continued to live on an acreage that we bought about five miles outside of Lethbridge, in 1950, and I hope to remain here as long as I can cope. I love the quiet, peaceful life of the country.

BERWAYER

Some years before 1914 two bachelor brothers by the name of Berwayer lived on the SW 14-38-1-5. They had come from France and evidently wished to return. In 1914 they sold this land to Jean Depalme, went back home, and were never heard of again.

THE GUSTAV RHEINHOLT BJELKE FAMILY

Gustav Rheinholt Bjelke was born near Oslo, Norway in 1876. In 1876, his father and mother emigrated to Asele in Lapland, Sweden where he received his education and later became timber inspector for that region. In the early 1900's he met and married Lina Margaret Sehlstrom of Baskese, Lapland.

Times were hard in Sweden at the turn of the century and hearing glowing reports of a new and promising land, he decided to emigrate to Canada in 1903. There he worked in various places on the railroad. A year later Lina came. She attended the Burnt Lake School for a year to learn the English language. They filed for a homestead west of Evarts in the Diamond Valley district on the SE 4-38-3-5.

For a year they lived in Golden, British Columbia where Gustav again worked on the railroad, and it was here that their oldest son, Gunnar was born. On their return to Diamond Valley they found that their land flooded every spring and it was hard to even grow potatoes there. Lina was renowned for her rabbit stew and hamburgers. Groceries were bought in Evarts, flour milled at Eckville, and medical care was far away. Gunnar was in a runaway at five years of age; he was thrown on a barbed wire fence and had his collar bone broken. It took two days to transport him to a hospital in Red Deer



Bjelke Family, outside their home in Diamond Valley — 1911. Gunnar, Ida Larsen from Burnt Lake, Mrs. Bjelke holding Carl, Mr. Bjelke holding Dora.

to receive treatment. They had to stay over night at Mattsons' enroute. With cows to milk, stockings and mitts to knit and food to prepare, Lina was a very busy mother indeed, for five more children were born in Diamond Valley: Dora, October 24, 1908; Carl, August 25, 1910; Ruth, April 27, 1913; Andrew, February 5, 1916; and Arthur, May 5, 1918. Harold was born after they moved to Burnt Lake on April 17, 1921. Gunnar, Dora and Carl attended the Diamond Valley public school.

In 1920, the family moved to Burnt Lake where Gustav had purchased the SW as well as 40 acres of the SE 10-38-1-5. They lived in what used to be the old hotel or stopping place. It seemed like heaven to Lina who loved the trees. Across the way there was a Baptist Church and a Mission Friend Church as well as a school. The Lutherans were served by laymen and ministers who would preach in the Mission Friend Church as well as in the school. Among these were Nordstrom, Lindquist, Herman and Schmidt. The trees proved to be both a bane and a blessing for while they provided shelter and berries, much work had to be done by Gustav in chopping down trees so that the land could be cultivated. His prowess with the axe was beautiful to watch. After the trees had been cut, stumps were dynamited, put into piles and burned. When all was ready, Frank Dallaire came with his big steam outfit and plowed the land. Then roots had to be picked and burned. It was back breaking work, but at last the land was seeded. Excitement ran high in the fall when again the steam outfit came in and the threshing was completed. All the years were not good. One remembers hail storms but there was always food for every one. The coffee pot was always on the stove for those who dropped in to pass the day. The children took turns as they grew old enough to help with the work such as milking.

Gustav was a member of the school board for a number of years. Lina was a charter member of the Burnt

Lake W.I. She also played the organ for some of the Lutheran services. Teachers often boarded at their place and Lina often made soup for the school children during the winter time. The children took turns being janitors.

In 1929 tragedy struck. Lina died after an emergency appendectomy, leaving Gustav with seven motherless children to face the depression which had already begun. Luckily Dora had finished at Normal School and was able to go teaching. The young men of the district supplemented their meagre earnings from the farm by working in the sawmills at Rocky Mountain House during the winter. Gunnar became a sawyer and later this became his life work. All the boys helped with the construction of an outdoor rink at the school and here many hours were whiled away. The Burnt Lake boys became quite proficient and won many tournaments. Ruth was busy in the home and extra activities included teaching in Sunday School, playing the organ for services and helping out with music in the school for Christmas programs.

World War II brought many changes. Arthur was called up to the armed services and Andrew to the Air Force. Following the war in 1946, shortly after the boys returned, Gustav died of a heart attack.

Following is a brief resumé of his children and their vocations: **Gunnar Rheinholt**, sawyer, married Irene Ojola of Rocky Mountain House. He is retired and lives at Rocky. He has three children. Harold, who was blinded by a car accident, works at the C.N.I.B. in Edmonton. Cathy is married to Dorn Ries, an engineer. They have two girls and reside in Calgary. Howard is married to Donna Lerke. He is an assistant manager at the Hudson's Bay Store in Dawson Creek, British Columbia. **Dora Margaret**, teacher, married Axel Johanson. They reside in Burnt Lake and have four children. **Ruth Valborg** married Peder Tastad who is a farmer. They reside in Strongfield, Saskatchewan. They have three children: Kathleen with her A.R.C.T. is also a teacher and is married to Rev. Angus McGillivray of Prince Albert, Saskatchewan; Richard, who is a farmer of Strongfield, is married to Leone Bookout and have one child; Garth, who is Vice President of Century Mechanical, is married to Carol Fuller of Saskatoon where they reside and have one child. **Andrew Gordon**, a sheet metal worker foreman with the Canadian Pacific Airlines, was married to Leah and they have four children, Carol, Darleen, Sheila and Gerald. Andrew died in 1971 from cancer and their son Gerald died at an early age with a heart condition as a result of his mother having had German measles in the early part of her pregnancy. **Arthur Gustav** married Freda Tutman, a war bride, and they have two children, Marilyn (Mrs. Ray Smith) and Myrna (Mrs. G. Scheller). Freda lives in Vernon, British Columbia. Arthur died from a heart attack in 1965. **Carl Helge**, an unmarried construction foreman, died in 1957 from a heart attack. **Harold Christopher** (deaf), a clothes presser and carpenter, married Barbara Bourne (deaf) and have four children, Dennis, Carl, Sharon and Gary. In spite of their handicap, Barbara and Harold have done very well and have a beautiful home in Edmonton. The children all have good hearing. They can also speak the sign language.

Times have changed and the descendants of Gustav and Lina Bjelke, along with others, are enjoying a standard of living far surpassing the wildest dreams of their



Bjelke Family — 1946. L. to R. Harold, Gunnar, Ruth, Dora, Arthur, Carl and Andrew.

forefathers. The land across the waters they loved so well and never were able to see again, has been visited by some of their children.

ESPERN BJORNSON

The Bjornsons were a well-known family in the Bentley area. They were a family of seven boys, very talented musically and mechanically.

In 1925 Espern, a veteran of World War I, lived for a season with his wife and family on NW 14-38-1-5. He put in a few acres for cattle fodder. It is remembered that as he had very little in the way of equipment, he used the head piece of an iron bedstead to harrow the land. It worked quite well, too, as he harvested a creditable crop.

PAUL BUTUK FAMILY

Paul Butuk was born at Eaton, Saskatchewan and raised on the family farm 20 miles south of Eaton. He is the eldest child of Nick and Margaret Butuk and he has a brother Fred and sister Evelyn (Kleis). Paul attended Elma Country school for grades 1-8 and Eaton High School for grades 9-12. After graduating, he went to Medicine Hat and there he was employed in the construction trade and hardware business. He married Carol Grant in 1961. Carol was born in Medicine Hat and is the eldest child of Harry and Ruby Grant. She has a brother Lorne and sister Donna (Kane). Carol took her schooling in Medicine Hat and after graduating was employed as a secretary.

Carol relates: we lived in Medicine Hat for two years and in 1962 **Pamela** was born. In 1963 we moved to a farm six miles east of Eaton. Crops grown were mainly wheat and durum wheat. Our daughter **Lana** was born in 1965, and our son **Nicholas** in 1969, with **Carla** arriving September 1975.

We began looking at farm property in Central Alberta and purchased the farm of Dennis Johanson in December 1972, namely SW 22-38-1-5, SE 21, NW 23 and NW 15. We moved our farm machinery, tools, etc., with our two trucks and two trailers in eleven trips — 600 miles round trip. On April 13, 1973 we proceeded to load our household effects on the last load and planned to start early the following morning. A blizzard throughout the night and morning made the roads impassable so we were forced to move the following day. Pam and Lana had just finished two weeks spring break vacation in Saskatchewan and immediately upon moving to Alberta had another two weeks of Easter vacation, so they enjoyed a nice long holiday.

A cattle liner, moving our 54 head of cattle from Saskatchewan, missed the turn at Sylvan Lake and continued to Rocky Mountain House before the driver realized where he was. When he did arrive at the farm it was very muddy as it had rained for several days. The liner became stuck 50 feet from the unloading chute so our truck, with three head of cattle at a time, was pulled then pushed with the tractor to the chute until all 54 head were unloaded six hours later. The driver asked us why we would ever move to this muddy country, and we were beginning to wonder ourselves.

In 1974 we bought the SW 16-38-1-5 from Martin Durajcik and subdivided the farm yard which we sold to the **Ray Thacker** family.



Paul Butuk Family — 1976. Pam, Paul, Lana, Nicky, Carol holding Carla.

JOHN A. CARLSON

John Carlson was the original homesteader on the SW 22-38-1-5, coming around the turn of the century. He built a log house. The family consisted of a son **Paul**, and two daughters, **Ellen** and **Ester**. The family later moved to the NE 2-38-1-5.

JOHN CHRISTOPHERSON

John Christopherson left his family in Sweden and came to Canada seeking a new home. In 1900 he homesteaded SW 34-37-1-5 and remained there for a few years. He sold his land to Adrian Erickson and moved to Froid, Montana. At the time of his death a son came from Sweden to settle his father's estate, and thus ended the brief sojourn of one of our early pioneers.

SIGNE AND BILL CLARK — by Kietha (Mrs. Don) Beers

My parents, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Clark, were married in Roseau County, Minnesota. Just after I was born, we moved from the Lucky Lake-Demaine area of Saskatchewan to Alberta. We stayed the winter of 1934-35 with my uncle, Fred Sjoquist in Burnt Lake, moving to Sylvan Lake in the spring. My older sister and brother, Jeannette and John attended the Burnt Lake School during those winter months.

Mother was a teacher and had taught in various parts of Alberta. Father was a steam engineer and worked the latter part of his life in this trade; before this he did a variety of other jobs.

Bill and Signe had property in Sylvan Lake and also owned an acreage southeast of Sylvan on the John Tanche farm, to which they moved a school from the Bluebell district. This building is now used as a dwelling.

In the spring of 1970, my mother bought the buildings and 20 acres of the Freda Smith property on NE 16-38-1-5. However, she was killed in a highway accident that summer on her way to her other property in the Norma district. As a result, the acreage was sold. My mother always had a sentimental attachment to the Burnt Lake

district and purchased a plot in the cemetery there, which we used for her in July 1970.

Three of our family live in Edmonton: **John** (Jack), **Jeannette** (Jean, Mrs. F. Finley), and **Malcolm**. **Divina** lives at Gillam, Man., and I, **Kietha** (Mrs. Don Beers) live in Calgary. My father plans to move into a senior citizens' home in Edmonton after his discharge from the hospital.

EMANUEL PETTERSON CRONQUIST 1854-1924

In 1893, at the age of 39, Emanuel Pettersson (Cronquist was not his original name) left his native Sweden to discover the opportunities of the opening Canadian west. Having decided to settle in the Burnt Lake district, SE 22-38-1-5, ten miles west of the new railway settlement of Red Deer, he returned to Sweden for his wife Hilda and their four small children. Early the following year, 1894 the Pettersons made the long journey to Burnt Lake, their arrival saddened by the death en route of their two oldest boys.

Although Pettersson had been a businessman in Stockholm, he appears to have turned readily to the life of a frontier homesteader. The family spent their first year in a one-room log house roofed with sod. During the nine years they lived at Burnt Lake, two more boys were born, David in 1895 and Elais in 1897; the house was enlarged with a two-storey addition; and Emanuel Pettersson became a successful farmer and rancher.

Among his predominantly Scandinavian neighbors in the district was another settler named Pettersson. After a period of confusion with the mail, Emanuel Pettersson adopted for his family name "Cronquist" as a solution.

In 1903 Cronquist acquired the SW 17-38-27-4 near the little town of Red Deer. Here he built a large frame house and later, about 1909, added a stone root cellar.

The growing town of Red Deer and its rapidly settling district provided Cronquist with many business opportunities over the following years. His modest advertisement, which appeared in every issue of the *Alberta* (later Red Deer) *Advocate* from 1910 to 1917, reflects some of his interests:

"E. P. CRONQUIST

Dealer in Working Horses, Working Oxen, Milk Cows, Sheep, Live Stock of all kinds, Improved Farms and Town property for sale.
Red Deer P. O."

Cronquist also made short term loans to arriving settlers, sold them life insurance, and ordered their machinery; as a rancher he helped them get established with livestock. As early as 1904 he is reported shipping large quantities of building stone from his quarry to Wetaskiwin.

On September 27, 1912, the *Advocate* found it newsworthy that

"Mr. E. P. Cronquist is building in West Park, one of Red Deer's residential sub-divisions, a large residence which will be modern in every respect, and which when completed will cost in the neighborhood of \$8,000."

The ample brick house was built facing north on both the river and the main road into Red Deer. It stood as a landmark and as a measure of the success of a Swedish immigrant who only eighteen years earlier had been living in a log cabin at Burnt Lake. On March 27, 1976, the



E. P. Cronquist Family, about 1901. Back — Holgar and Hannah. Seated — Mrs. and Mr. Cronquist. Front — Elias and Dave.

house was moved across the Red Deer River by the Folk Festival Society. It is to be placed on a permanent foundation near Great Chief Park.

On September 3, 1924, E. P. Cronquist died in the Red Deer Memorial Hospital at the age of 70, scarcely three weeks before his son Holger died in the same hospital. Cronquist is remembered as an energetic and public spirited citizen.

Following Emanuel Cronquist's death, the house remained occupied by his wife Hilda who died in 1943 at three weeks before his son **Holger** died in the same spinster in 1969 at the age of 80; and by his youngest son **Elias** who died a bachelor in 1974 at the age of 77. Richard Young, who was a friend of Elais, lived in the house for almost thirty years. Emanuel's only grandson, Gerald D. Cronquist (his father **David** died in 1941 at the age of 45), inherited the house and land when Elias died.

FRANK DALLAIRE (1880-1934)

At St. Francois of Orleans, on the Isle of Orleans in the St. Lawrence River, very near the city of Quebec, is erected a six-foot granite monument carrying a bronze plaque on which is inscribed, "A tribute to honour our ancestors, Jean and Charles Allaire who came from Poitu, France in 1658 — Allaire-Dallaire families." This plot is surrounded by a beautiful iron fence, the whole being the property of the Allaire-Dallaire family association, such that, should the ground actually occupied by a descendant be sold, this portion will always belong to the association and the monument will never be displaced.



Frank T. Dallaire, 1974 standing beside the cairn marking his ancestors' 1658 homestead on the Isle of Orleans, Quebec.

The land is the old homestead of brothers Jean and Charles. Charles is the forefather of Francois Xavier Dallaire, familiarly known as Frank.

Frank Dallaire was born at Ste. Agathe-des-Monts, Quebec, December 3, 1880, the second son of Hyppolyte and Delphine (Gilbert) Dallaire. He was raised in a family of eight sons and one daughter.

While still a very young man, Frank answered the call of the west, and a chain of events led him to Red Deer. His first adventure was as a gold miner at the Mikado Mines, 60 miles from Kenora (then known as Rat Portage).

Some years before the turn of the century, John T. Moore, later a prominent Red Deer citizen, owned a freighter which operated on Lake of the Woods between the Mikado Mines and Kenora. For years Theophile Dominique (always called "Cap") was the captain of this boat and Frank Dallaire, finding mining not to his liking, became an employee on this boat. This experience led to his later becoming a steam engineer.

Through John T. Moore, the Dominiques and Frank Dallaire learned of the opportunities to be found in Central Alberta and they made the move that brought them to Red Deer. Frank Dallaire and Fred Pion, Mrs. Dominique's brother, arrived in Red Deer July 27, 1902 with a carload of settler's effects.

In 1904 Frank Dallaire married Alvina Dominique, daughter of Theophile and Celene (Pion) Dominique, who was born August 12, 1886, at Keewatin on the Lake of the Woods. They bought the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ 14-38-1-5 in the Burnt Lake district where all their children, except the two youngest, were born. About 1911 they moved a mile south to NE $\frac{1}{4}$ 10-38-1-5 which was to be their home for the remainder of their lives. An interesting note is that Alvina's wedding ring was made of gold mined by Frank in his mining days.

To supplement the farm income, Frank undertook a lot of contract work. He supplied wood for John T.

Moore's power plant which generated Red Deer's electrical energy. Using horse power he and Cap Dominique cleared and broke considerable portions of Red Deer's south hill. He also worked building roads, one being the road to Delburne and another the Sylvan Lake-Bentley highway. Two years were spent on the irrigation development at Bassano. Later he made use of his engineer's papers to operate a steam engine for clearing and breaking land, and for the yearly round of threshing.

For many years the winters were spent in the Rocky Mountain House area operating lumber camps. Frank was widely known and respected throughout the west country — his genial, happy nature and gift of song made him a welcome guest or popular host.

He was a willing worker in community undertakings, and played a large part in the building of the first Catholic church at Sylvan Lake. For some years he was secretary-treasurer and trustee of the Burnt Lake School District.

During the lean years of the 1920's and 1930's when he operated lumber camps, he provided many men with much-needed work. He never turned down a request for the price of a meal and he found that, almost without fail, it was repaid, such was the basic honesty of the men endeavoring to pay their way. During these depression days the price of lumber was \$11.00 per thousand feet, dressed and delivered to the lumber yard in Rocky Mountain House.

A highlight in the life of the family occurred in the winter of 1912-13 when they were able to spend several months with Frank's elderly parents in Moose Creek, Ontario. But life was not without its sorrows. Two children died in infancy; wife and mother, Alvina, died of the 'flu November 5, 1918, leaving Frank with a family of five young children. It was an especially sore loss when his youngest daughter, **Alvina (Babe)** died at the age of 15 years in July, 1929.

Following an active and full life, Frank Dallaire died at the comparatively early age of 53 years in July, 1934. He, his wife Alvina, and three children are all buried in the Red Deer Cemetery. His second wife, Laura Scott,



Frank X. Dallaire Family — 1913. L. to R. — Grandfather Dallaire, Frank T., Mother (Alvina), Father (Frank), with George, Juliana, Grandmother Dallaire. Seated — Blanche.



Frank and Alvina Dallaire's children — 1952. L. to R. — George, Blanche (Sr. Celina), Juliana (Sr. Xavier), Frank T.

moved back to Montreal after his death and is buried there.

The family remaining consists of two sons and two daughters. His daughters **Juliana** (Sister Xavier of Jesus) and **Blanche** (Sister Celina of the Rosary) left for the Noviciate in Ottawa in July, 1925. Both belong to the Congregation of the Daughters of Wisdom, whose Mother House is in France. Sister Xavier, who was Mother Superior in Red Deer from 1952 to 1955, now (1976) resides in Castor. Sister Celina spent six years in Belgium, many years in eastern Canada, and now resides in Red Deer. Both Sisters are music teachers.

The younger son, **George**, farmed in the Leslieville district and is now (1976) retired in Eckville. The older son, **Frank T. Dallaire**, married and still resides in Burnt Lake.

FRANK T. AND EDITH M. DALLAIRE

Frank Theophile Dallaire, son of Frank Xavier and Alvina Dallaire, was born on their farm west of Red Deer on January 10, 1906. He attended Swan Lake School and at a very early age began his life's work as a farmer. When he was eight years old, he drove three horses hitched to a sulky plow, and followed the hired man, Sandy Smith, who drove eight horses pulling the three bottom plow. When they came to the end of the field, Sandy would turn his team, then lift Frank's plow out and help him turn and get started again. As soon as Frank was strong enough, he was promoted to more horses with larger implements, and it wasn't many years until he was driving, with ease, six and eight horse teams.

Frank and I, Edith Marjorie Cody, were married November 17, 1927. I was born November 27, 1903 and brought up in the Willowdale District, south-east of Red Deer. I took my high school in Red Deer, and received a teacher's certificate from the Camrose Normal School. I taught school at Swan Lake, Shady Nook, Happy Hill and Willowdale. My parents came from Ontario in 1893-94. My father's ancestors, seeking religious and political freedom, came from the Channel Islands to the New England States in 1698. Father's great-grandfather and family came to Ontario, Canada after the American

Revolution. My mother's people came to Ontario from England.

At the time of our marriage, four to eight good horses, a plow, disc, harrows, drill and a binder was considered a full line of equipment. These were expected to, and did, last for years. The machines wore out but did not become obsolete from one year to another. I believe machine companies were required to supply parts for twenty years after manufacture. I must say, however, the new machines are much more efficient.

One big improvement was the deep tillage cultivator. When quack grass got a foothold, the old machines were helpless. They just jumped over the tough grass or spread it all around. Andy Niemczyk used to dig out quack patches with a fork and burn the roots. Swain Swainson tells of tilling his field, going back and forth, up and down, crosswise and everyway with the harrows, but only succeeding in spreading the roots. Either way it was a losing battle, but with the deep tooth cultivator, the tough quack roots didn't stand a chance.

I remember Frank's father remarking that cultivation alone could not control weeds, that some other method would have to be found. In our ignorance we couldn't conceive of any other way. Now we have chemicals that can pick out specific weeds and eliminate them, leaving the grain unharmed, an almost unbelievable method as compared with early farming.

Another early improvement was the comfortable rubber spring seats. The old equipment came with a seat on the end of a solid iron bar. Joe Untinen, implement dealer at Sylvan Lake, reasoned that if a man spent hours on that seat, it at least should be more comfortable. Even that was a long way from the luxurious tractor cabs and seats of today.

The most spectacular change in ease of operation was the hydraulic lift. A touch of the hand or foot accomplished more than all the old yanking and pulling.

Also, the swathing and combining did away with the hours of stooking and threshing, to say nothing of the housewife's work in preparing three meals a day for twelve to fifteen men who consumed endless amounts of food.

Our first home on NW 14-38-1-5 had no such convenience as a farm well and there was no money to hire a driller so Frank rented a well drill from Oskar Wesslen and went to work. He had trouble from the start, because of the quicksand, through which it was impossible to drill. This necessitated using steel casing. (The steel casing had to be driven into the ground as drilling proceeded.) Father (Frank Sr.) came to the rescue since he could get casing wholesale. We bought 6 inch casing, and I believe we paid \$1.25 a foot for it. The rented drill was in poor condition and was not equipped to drive casing. I remember the bit broke off and fell to the bottom of the casing. Frank had to pull all the casing and there was the bit stuck in the mud near the end. Frank then got Vere Miller's outfit from Sylvan Lake. Mr. Miller helped him get started and showed him how to drive the casing. This time all went well and at 80 feet he struck a vein of good soft water, which solved all our water problems. Of course the water was carried in and then the waste carried out. Taps and sewers were never considered.

Mr. Antoine Lemoine had homesteaded SE 14-38-1-5. It was strictly a hay quarter on Burnt Lake. For a few

years, in the early 1930's, Frank put the hay up on shares with Mr. Lemoine. At that time there was a market for hay in the drought areas of southern Alberta and Saskatchewan. Through a government agency, Mr. Lemoine would sell the hay, which Carl Bjelke and Frank baled. The baler was an old style stationary horse baler. Two horses went around in a circle and pulled the plunger back and forth. It compressed hay two strokes to a round. The horses needed no driver since a pole led them around. Two wires held each bale which were hand-tied. A bale had to weigh 100 to 110 pounds so that 200 bales or 10 tons would fill a railway car. The hay was loaded on sleighs and hauled to Cygnet for loading. All this was hand labor. We at home would listen for the ring of the sleigh bells to tell us when the men folk had completed their trip. We could hear the bells over a mile away on a clear cold night and all could recognize the tune of their own bells. What a welcome beautiful sound they were!

In 1936 we moved to S½ 3-38-1-5, which has been our permanent home. Soon, Frank was building himself a portable sawmill, a chore he thoroughly enjoyed. Our records show that he was custom sawing in 1938. At first he had a solid tooth saw, then he bought an insert-tooth saw blade. When the mill was properly lined up it made remarkably good lumber. In fact, our local carpenters, Art Reynolds and Mr. Seland, said it was superior to the planned lumber they sometimes got at the lumber yards. Frank never had a planer, but there are a good number of farm buildings in the area that were built very successfully with rough dimension lumber. Frank had an ear and feel for the saw so that he could detect immediately if something wasn't just right. He sawed regularly every winter until 1949. He moved his mill to places in Burnt Lake, Centreville, Poplar Ridge and Crossroads. He supplied the mill, power, and himself and charged \$7.00 per thousand feet. It wasn't a fortune, but a way to make good money. At that time the older girls were attending high school and later university. We used to say the mill, along with the faithful milk cows, put them through.

Frank suffered a stroke in 1949 and following this illness he set up his mill at home and did custom sawing until 1962. By then, logs were getting scarce, times were better, and the need for a mill diminished.

In 1938, when Frank was looking for power to run his mill, he bought an old 20-30 Rumely Oil-Pull tractor from Jack Sunell of Sylvan Lake for 330 bushels of barley. It needed a complete motor overhaul costing \$40.00, but gave years of good service. When Frank had such good luck with it, Jack jokingly told him he got it too cheap! Later, when Frank bought a new tractor, he had little use for the faithful Rumely. In the 1960's he sold it to Ray Ferguson at the U. F. A. Co-op station at Sylvan Lake. Ray polished it up, and there it proudly sits by the side of the main road, just south of Sylvan Lake, an interesting exhibit for tourists to examine an excellent example of by-gone power.

Our four oldest children were born at Mrs. Simon's Nursing Home in Red Deer. Due to poor roads and adverse winter weather, waiting mothers could not always remain at home until the stork announced his imminent arrival. The nursing home provided a safe waiting home, and a welcome to the tiny new arrivals. I believe we paid \$1.00 a day for bed and board while waiting, and \$3.00 a day during confinement, which in those days was,

at the very least, ten days! Meanwhile on the home front, young girls or neighbors were hired to carry out various homemaking duties. Among those who ably helped us were Mary Hoskin, Olga Selstrom, Helen Halgren, Ruth Lawrence and Mrs. J. O. Johnson. After 1940 the Alberta Government provided free maternity care in hospitals, phasing out the nursing homes.

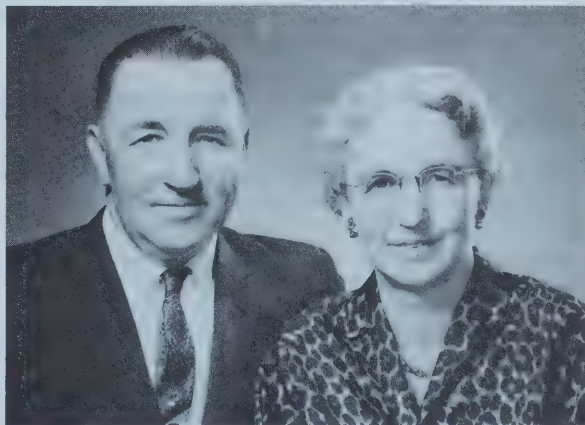
During the 1930's money was almost nonexistent, but I can't remember too many hardships on the farm. On looking over records we find, we often had a \$5.00 cream cheque to buy essential groceries, and there was always enough for a sweet treat, and sometimes a big treat — a lunch at the restaurant. In the spring we could buy a little bag of marbles for five cents or a skipping rope for not more than fifteen cents.

I remember saying, "every stitch the children have on, I have made over from used garments." We even made the children's stockings from the legs of larger sizes. How they hated those heelless black stockings! At least the shoes and overshoes were store bought, and on the farm we always had plenty of good food to eat and warm fires to keep us comfortable.

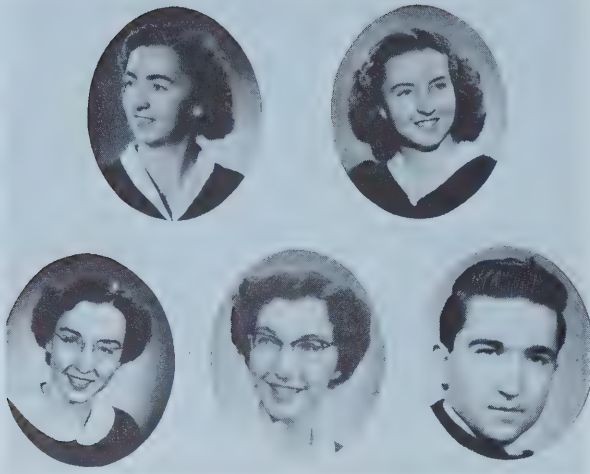
Sometimes the local school teacher stayed with us. During the World War II years, our girls looked with envy on the school teacher's nylon stockings. Nylons were a very scarce and expensive commodity, and one who had nylon stockings was among the elite. Nylons also had the tendency to run very readily. I remember one teacher spent a least an hour every night knitting the runs in her nylons with a fine hook made for the purpose.

We identified ourselves with the Social Credit Movement from its beginning. We learned so much and enjoyed such good fellowship. We happened to have a very good battery radio. So every week we loaded up the radio and the children, and traveled to the neighbors whose turn it was to have the meeting. All had prepared an aerial, so in a matter of minutes the radio would be set up, and connected. We tuned in to a lecture on Social Credit principles, followed by answers to mailed-in questions. After a study period and discussion we enjoyed a hearty lunch.

When our girls were ready for high school the new dormitory for rural children was in the first years of operation, in the Anglican Church Parish Hall on Gaetz Avenue, with Mrs. Mappin as matron. If I remember



Frank T. and Edith M. Dallaire — 1960.



Frank T. and Edith M. Dallaire's family, taken over a period of years 1948 to 1966 as each attended university. Top row — Lillie, Marion. Bottom row — Juliana, Blanche, Frank Cody.

correctly, they stayed Monday to Friday at the dormitory for \$10.00 a month each. They always were home for weekends. But an education they got, and hundreds more rural children had the same opportunity. Our younger children went to school by bus. Bus transportation made the dormitories obsolete.

We had six children; four girls and two boys. **Lillie**, born in 1929, married Roy C. Clutton. They have two daughters; Betty-Anne and Patricia and one son, Kenneth. They live east of Pine Lake. **Marion**, born in 1930, married Roy L. Brown. They have two daughters; Marjorie (Mrs. Alan Simms) and Debra, and one son, Douglas. Their farm includes the original A. Brown's homestead at Pine Lake. **Juliana**, born in 1935, married Roy D. Schafer. They have one daughter Nancy, and one son Stephen. They own the land homesteaded by my father, A. H. Cody. **Blanche**, born in 1940, married Norrie Cunningham. They have one son Michael, and one daughter Anne. They live on Norrie's maternal grandfather's homestead. **Frank Cody**, our oldest son, born 1945, is married and lives on the home farm. They have four children. (See F. C. Dallaire article.) **Stephen George**, our younger son, born 1947, died at the age of seven months.

We are a family of teachers. All four girls and son Frank teach or have taught in Central Alberta.

Our generation has seen an unparalleled number of changes. In styles we have witnessed changes from gaiters and spats, highbutton and laced shoes, spike heels, to snow boots and platform shoes; from hobble skirts and floor length street clothes, to mini skirts and bikinis; from gym bloomers, middy blouses and bobby socks to shorts and halters; from bell bottom trousers to hipsters; from riding skirts to faded blue jeans; from ostrich feathered hats to beauty parlor coiffures. We have gone from coal oil lamps and wood stoves to electric chandeliers and micro-wave cooking; from wash boards, clothes lines and hand wringers to automatic washers and dryers; from the hand water pumps, outhouses, chamber pots, the galvanized wash tub in front of the kitchen fire to hot and cold water on tap, and the most sophisticated

bathroom conveniences. We could go on and on, but whoever, would ever have imagined that the human race, with the old cow, could actually jump over the moon!

FRANK CODY DALLAIRE

I was born at the Red Deer General Hospital, March 30, 1945, the son of Frank T. and Edith M. Dallaire.

Three things highlighted my pre-school life. First was the excitement of coming home from town and looking at the ceiling and seeing those strange things giving out light. When the power goes off now one wonders how anyone ever lived without it. The second event occurred in town. As a small child it gets tiresome looking up to see who you are following. In order to solve this problem one soon learns to follow a pair of shoes, stockings, dress, or coat. I remember getting fouled up once. All my clues matched but when I looked up, she was not my mother. Boy, was I glad to find my parents! The third incident involved a Valentine party at the Burnt Lake School. One of the things I had to learn that day was how to walk the mile to school by myself. When one is five, there seems to be dangerous creatures behind every tree. I was very relieved when Mother agreed to walk me to the corner — the most dangerous part. Once we got that far I was able to complete the hike alone. Soon walking to school became an enjoyable part of a day.

Grades One to Seven were completed at Burnt Lake School. My teachers were Miss Holmgren, Mrs. Fairburn, and Mrs. Nielson. We had very good times there, but I found the annual sports day at Poplar Ridge very special. All spring we practised until we felt we could compete against our age group from other schools. Burnt Lake usually fared quite well. After Grade Seven I went by bus to Sylvan Lake and Red Deer to complete my high school.

Another important school was Sunday School. Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Johanson worked hard to see we got the proper lessons. I am grateful for the education provided.

The Burnt Lake Community held many parties during a year. When I was very young I remember listening to the dance music by Mr. Hacker and Mr. and Mrs. Sawyer. As I grew older my parents allowed me to play whist at the weekly card party. I recall wishing I could be as good a player as the Halvorsens, or hoping that Mrs. Paul Sveinson would think I played my cards properly. I do not think I achieved my goals but remember how quickly those pleasant evenings passed.

I developed farm interests early in life. Regretfully for Father it was not in machines but in those "dirty good for nothing chickens". My first birds came from Mrs. O. Wold. She had this bantam hen that refused to quit setting. After several attempts to break her up, Mrs. Wold gave up and for some reason the hen hatched a chick. She gave both to me. My next birds were ducks, given to me by Uncle Bert Cody for my seventh birthday. I remember Mother telling me about my birthday present two weeks in advance. Those two weeks certainly took a long time in passing. Many other people helped me in my interest: Mrs. Alice Engman — bantams, Mrs. Wilhelm — cluckers, Mrs. Swain Swainson — a gobbler, and Mrs. Ruby Horne — a pet Chinese goose. By the time I was in high school, I had several breeds of feathers running the farm. One incident that I recall involved Mac the gander. I had just started raising geese and had managed to raise

two fine grays. When the next spring came and nothing exciting was happening, I decided it was time to get them a mate. I wanted to get a big white gander but there seemed to be none in the country. One day, when I got home from school, I saw this beautiful, white gander. I ran to the house to tell my folks the good news but they were the ones who had brought it home. After all this you would think my problems were solved but this was not the case — you see, the grays were ganders too. This was not the end, for Mac, the great white gander, was not to be without a partner. He decided he liked my mother. Everytime Mother went outdoors, there was Mac — as close as he dared. When she called us for supper, Mac called too. What a lovely, one-way relationship! Funny, Mother sold Mac soon after I left home.

In 1963 I left home to complete training for my life's work. I went to the University of Alberta, Edmonton and received a degree in Physical Education and a teacher's certificate. My summer months were spent working at Deerhome — an invaluable experience. After university, I taught two years at Sylvan Lake where I enjoyed coaching local athletes. From Sylvan I went to teach in Red Deer. I am now teaching in an elementary school in the Sunnybrook Subdivision.

The biggest highlight of my life was meeting Barbara McKee in the summer of 1965. Barbara, born March 7, 1947, is the third daughter of Annie and Jim McKee. When she was nine she came to Red Deer, Alberta from Elmira, Ontario with her family. Her Dad came here to set up a business selling McKee Harvesters for his brothers. On December 23, 1967, Barb and I were married in the Gaetz United Church, Red Deer. Our family followed: **Frank James**, born March 4, 1969; **Juliana Marie**, born May 1, 1970; **Jason Dominique**, born July 24, 1974; **David Robert**, born May 18, 1976. On December 7, 1972, we lost an infant daughter whom we named **Christina**.

In 1970, we had the opportunity to move a house onto the farm. We then bought the SW-3-38-1-5 from my parents. One of the first things we did was buy some chickens. Then we bought twelve registered Suffolk sheep. Appropriately, we named our farm Featherwood, because I like poultry, and both Barb and I always

wanted trees around our home. It is nice to get back to the busy but quiet life of the farm.

EARL C. DICK

Earl Dick was born in Edmonton, August 3, 1916, living there until he went overseas in December 21, 1939, serving with the army. He went to England, France, Holland, Belgium and Germany. Before going overseas he married Blanche Weiss on February 25, 1935. They had two daughters, Donnamae and Rita. Upon returning from overseas on April 13, 1945 Earl, Blanche and girls lived in Edmonton until June 1953, then moved to Regina, Saskatchewan, returning to Red Deer in June 1954. In May 1956 they moved to the Burnt Lake district living on the Seland farm, NW 27-37-1-5, later moving to the Latam farm, NW 36-37-1-5, north of Paul Sveinsons'.

While in Burnt Lake they celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary on February 25, 1960. This particular winter there had been a severe snow storm so Earl and Blanche had to walk to the corner of their quarter to meet Joe Sveinson who took them to a dance at Sylvan Lake. Two days later the Burnt Lake community had a party for them and all the cars had to be pulled across the fields in order to get to the house.

Earl and Blanche left Burnt Lake in October 1960, moving to Vancouver, British Columbia in November 1965. In the spring of 1966 they moved to Coombs, British Columbia and in April 1967 they moved to Errington, British Columbia where they operated a store and post office. At present they are living in Salmon Arm, British Columbia having retired there in November, 1975.

Both daughters are married. **Donnamae** is now Mrs. Jackson and is living in Errington, British Columbia. **Rita** married Bud Nichol and they are living in Port Alberni, British Columbia. Their eldest daughter Terry, now 19 years old, is living in Red Deer and works at the Deerhome. Of all places the Dicks have lived they look back at the years spent in Burnt Lake as the happiest ones of their lives.

DOMINIQUE

In the year 1902, Captain Theophile Dominique and his wife, Celina, (nee Pion) with their six children, **Alvina**, **Rosie**, **Eva**, **Louise**, **Theophile**, and **Eugene**, left the Lake of the Woods, Ontario, and came west. While at Lake of the Woods, Captain Dominique had operated a boat for



Frank C. Dallaire Family — 1977. L. to R. Barbara holding David, Frank J., Julie, Frank C. with Jason in front.



Mrs. Cap (Celene) Dominique
— 1900.

John T. Moore at the Makado Mines, and when John T. Moore came west, the Dominique family came also. They settled in Red Deer where Theophile was employed at the lumber yards. Later on, they came to the Burnt Lake District, settling on the SE 22-38-1-5. Celina Dominique acted as midwife, accompanying Dr. Richard Parsons, by horse and buggy, to various homes surrounding the Red Deer area.

Alvina Dominique married Frank X. Dallaire, Rosie married Treffle Dallaire, Eva married Gabriel LeBihan, and Louise married Lewis Bjornson. Theophile and his wife, Lucienne, resided for many years in Edmonton, and Eugene's wife, Marie, was a war bride from France.



Finger Polka — 1903 — At the Dominique home. L. to R. — Alvina Dominique, Frank Dallaire, Rose Dominique, a friend.

After selling the farm in the Burnt Lake District, Celina Dominique made her home with her youngest daughter, Louise, where she and her husband, Lewis, lived in a large white house next to the Sylvan Lake creamery. In 1933, Celina moved to a farm in the Leslieville District where she later became ill. While in the Rocky Mountain House Hospital, she passed away at the age of seventy-two years, in October, 1934. She was buried at Sylvan Lake in the Catholic Cemetery.

DORAN — COYLE

Sometime about 1914 or '15, a brother and sister, Matthew and Marcella Coyle arrived in Canada from Ireland. Their cousin, Mike Madden and his sister Mrs. Taylor of the Blackfalds area, had come from Ireland about 1908 and to Blackfalds in 1911, and it was to them the Coyles came.

Matthew found work on farms and for years worked for Frank Dallaire. When George Dallaire moved to Leslieville in 1935, Matt went with him, and from there moved on to British Columbia.

Marcella worked in Red Deer where she met Robert (Bob) Doran. They were married before he went overseas — World War I. On his return, they made their home on the SW 12-38-1-5 under agreement with the Soldier Settlement Board.

This quarter had been originally homesteaded by Jof-fat Rheinholt, then occupied by the Hammerbeck family.

Mr. **Hammerbeck** was a carpenter and built a large two storey house on the property. Later **Harvey Pitcher** a bachelor lived here, still later the **Hurd** family. Wayno Hurd, a foster son, attended Swan Lake school.

The Bob Doran family lived in Burnt Lake for some time. They had a family of three — daughter **Margaret** and sons **Robert** and **Michael Patrick**. Mrs. Doran was active in the Women's Institute and community work. They moved away during the 1930's, and the Norby family bought the farm and still own it (1976).

MARTIN DURAJCIC

Martin Durajcik was born in Czechoslovakia April 25, 1896, and came to Canada April 22, 1927. He worked for some time in the coal mines west and south of Edson.

Later he acquired three quarters of land in the Peace River area. Both he and his wife worked very hard for 13 years building up the farm. He realized it was too much for them so he sold out and worked in a slaughter house in British Columbia for three years.

In 1946 he arrived in the Burnt Lake area and bought the SW 16-38-1-5 from Ben Arlint, and remained until 1973. During his residence here he built a new home replacing the old frame house that had been there for decades. He is now retired and lives in Penhold, Alberta, enjoying hunting and water or ice fishing.

There are two daughters, **Cecelia** and **Nancy**. It is remembered that on one of the best school baseball teams in Burnt Lake, Nancy was pitcher and John Ilcisin, catcher. Nancy is married and lives in Edmonton.



Nancy Durajcik — 1951.

THE EINAR EINARSON FAMILY

Einar Einarson was born in Isafirdi, Iceland October 16, 1908, the son of Sigurdur Einarson and Ingibjorg Bjarndottir. He with his three sisters, was brought to Canada in 1915 by his widowed mother. They arrived at Red Deer on August 15, 1915 after travelling for six weeks. (His sisters, Mrs. Paul Sveinson, Mrs. Christine



Einar and Edna Einarson. 25th Wedding Anniversary — 1958.

Grimson, and Mrs. George Fitch will be mentioned in their husbands' biographies.) Einar's mother married Mr. S. Grimson. Einar attended the Burnt Lake School and later worked on his stepfather's farm.

In the fall of 1928 Einar, with a number of Burnt Lake boys, took work in a lumber mill located north of Rocky Mountain House and operated by Frank Dallaire, Sr. He continued working with Mr. Dallaire for several years during the winter months. About this time, Einar bought the S½ of Section 3-38-1-W5.

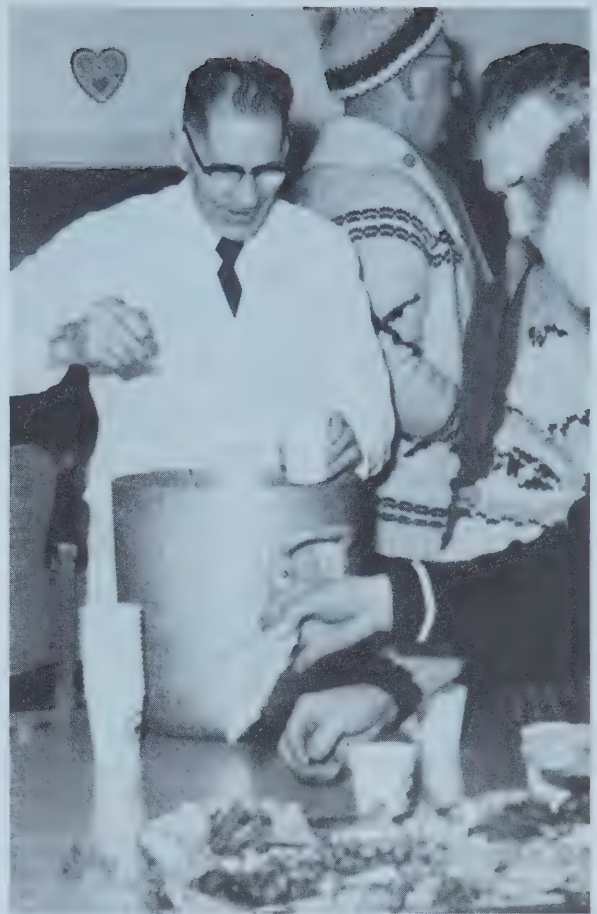
In 1929, Einar hired Ed Skocdopole to clear some land on the west side of his half section. This was done with a 60 cat, equipped with a V-shaped push cutter and was the first clearing of its kind ever done in the community — little axe and grubhoe work were done thereafter.

In 1933 he married Edna Hyvonen and they took up residence on the farm. He bought a house from the government and moved it from a site opposite the old Industrial School along the Burnt Lake Trail with eight horses. The house had been one of several buildings that the government provided for the large group of Scots settlers from the Hebrides that they brought in soon after WWI. The house was remodelled by another district man, the late Art Reynolds.

In 1936 the Einarsons left Burnt Lake and settled on a farm at Oras near Rocky Mountain House. Their farm at Burnt Lake was later purchased by Frank T. and Edith M. Dallaire who still own the property.

In 1940 Einar and Edna, with their two children Walter and LaVona, moved near Benalto where they farmed for sixteen years. However, during these years Einar followed his old trade of lumbering to some extent, being head sawyer for the Atlas Lumber Company.

Due to ill health, the Einarsons sold the Benalto farm in 1956 and moved to Innisfail. At this time Einar worked at the Penhold Air Base, operating the canteen. He continued with this work until his retirement in the fall of 1973, when they moved to Rocky Mountain House. Edna and Einar are both active in church work.



Einar Einarson serving coffee. C. E. Bonspiel, Penhold Air Base.

Their son **Walter** and his wife Gail (nee Morton) live at Vanderhoof, B.C. **LaVona** (now Mrs. Ray Newsham) and her family live in Calgary.

THE CARL ENGMAN FAMILY — by Alice Engman

Carl Engman was born in Oslay, Sweden, on May 12, 1904 and came to Canada in 1911 with his mother, sister Astrid and brothers Hilding and Tycko, to join his father who had come to Canada earlier. They came to the Burnt Lake district, where his Great Aunt and Uncle, Mr. and Mrs. M. Mattson, lived. His parents moved later to the New Hill district and Carl stayed with the Mattsons.

Mattsons lived for awhile in the Marianne district, but moved back to Burnt Lake to the Nyberg house that had been a store and post office of Burnt Lake. This was located on the NE 3-38-1-5. Carl attended the Burnt Lake school and farmed with Mattsons and worked in lumber camps in the winter. After Mr. Mattson's death in 1927 and Mrs. Mattson's in 1929, Carl inherited the place and continued farming.

On June 27, 1933 Carl and I (Alice Halvorson) were married. I had come in April 1919, at the age of seven with my parents, Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Halvorson and family, from Strongfield, Saskatchewan to their farm three miles south of Sylvan Lake, Alberta. We kept on farming. Carl worked out a lot in the winter time in lumber camps and with the winter works program for the

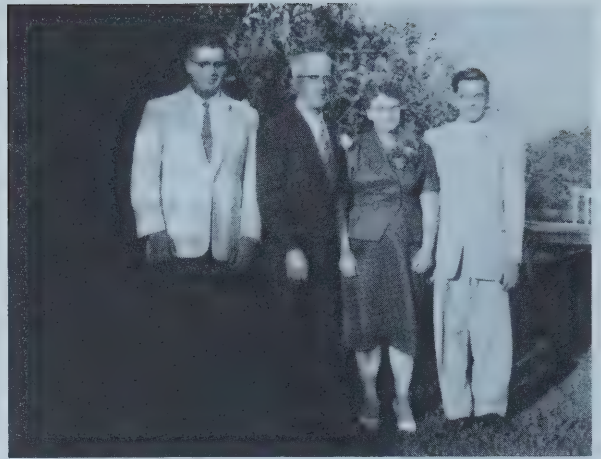


Carl Engman pumping water — 1921.

County of Red Deer and I boarded school teachers and did the farm chores, etc. Carl was a member of the F.U.A. and I was a member of the Burnt Lake W.I. being treasurer for 10 years. As a member of the F.W.U.A. I kept the records for the M.S.I. (Medical Services Incorporated) during the years it operated through organizations such as the U.F.A.

In 1958 we had our silver wedding anniversary. We had a family of two boys. **Norman Roy** was born April 7, 1937. On February 25, 1961 he married Joan Aubuchon (R.N.) from Red Deer. They have two boys, Wesley Norman born March 8, 1964 and Carl David born July 15, 1971. A son, Sheldon Wade, was born April 16, 1963 but died at birth. At present they live 10 miles east of Olds, Alberta, where they operate the Reed Ranch Service station and bulk oil for "Turbo". Our second son **Allen George** was born November 17, 1940. On June 29, 1968 he married Lynn Smith from Nelson, British Columbia. They have two children, Shauna Lynn, born January 10, 1969, and Trevor Carl, born September 26, 1970. They live in Calgary, Alberta, where Allen has his own tree moving service under the name of Engman Enterprises Ltd. Our boys received their schooling at Burnt Lake and Red Deer and were active in community sports.

In October 1964 we moved to Red Deer because of Carl's health. We sold the farm then to Mr. George Guder. It was very hard to leave Burnt Lake after living there so many years. I went to work at Deerhome Institute on November 1, 1964. We rented a house for two years in Red Deer and in September 1966 we bought a house in the Woodlea district, near the river, at 5521 — 47 A Ave., Red Deer. Carl continued to work for the



Allen, Carl, Alice and Norman Engman — Silver Wedding Anniversary — June 27, 1958.

County of Red Deer checking gravel until his death on May 11, 1968. He would have been 64 the following day. He is laid to rest at the Sylvan Lake Cemetery. I still work at Deerhome and enjoy my family and four grandchildren very much.

ADRIAN ERICKSON

It was by one of those coincidences that periodically crop up that Adrian Erickson, who was born in a predominantly Swedish area in Finland, should come to a predominantly Swedish settlement in Canada, which, however, was not far from what was later to become the Finnish settlement of Kuusamo.

He was born on September 17, 1843 at Wasa in the Wasa district of Finland. It was there that he obtained his schooling, and since the only language taught was Swedish, he did not even learn to converse in the Finnish tongue. When he was 17, he migrated to Sweden, and it was at Wilhelmina, Sweden, in 1886, that he married Christina Mattson, who was born at Wilhelmina on January 26, 1861.

In 1890 Mr. Erickson emigrated to the United States and located at Worcester, Mass. where he was employed in a wire manufacturing mill. The iron ore, which was brought in by railroad, was unloaded from the railroad cars into small ore cars, which was pulled by mules into the foundry, where they were dumped into the melting pots. When the noon or quitting time whistle blew, the mules would stop and refuse to budge another inch, even though the ore cars were only a few feet from where they were to be dumped.

In 1891, Mr. Erickson came to Ontario, Canada, and went to work on what he claimed was the coldest and crookedest section of track on the Canadian Pacific Railroad. The area was on the north shore of Lake Superior in the Chapleau section, and on the section there were 28 curves in a distance of eight miles. Shortly afterwards, he was promoted to section foreman at a wage of \$1.25 per day. In 1892 his wife and two daughters joined him.

The deep-rooted yearning of the family was for land of their own and it was with that in view that the family came to Red Deer, then in the North West Territories.



Sunflowers — L. to R. — Mrs. A. Erickson, Mrs. Fred Anquetil, Gretchen Anquetil, Mr. A. Erickson — 1923.



Mrs. Elof (Magda Erickson) Holmgren — 1920-21.

Mr. Erickson homesteaded the NE 34-37-1-5. Their home became a haven of welcome to many settlers that came into the area in later years and it was also a favorite stopping place for travellers between Red Deer and Markerville since one of the original wagon trails crossed their land. In the winter, it was also a stopping place overnight for some of the men hauling lumber from the sawmill at Evergreen to Red Deer in the early days.

The first years were very dry and the only hay of any consequence grew in the low spots or sloughs, which filled with water from the winter snows. In late autumn or early spring, a constant lookout had to be kept for the prairie fires that periodically swept the country and fire guards had to be plowed around hay stacks and buildings.

The homestead was on fairly level land but was below the summit of the ridge running north, west and south of it. The result was that it was subject to the August frosts, which at that time were quite common and more severe on the lower land, consequently some crops yielded low quality grain and the main feed for the livestock was natural hay.

In the early days of settlement, people had to be very handy at doing things and most of the building was done with hand hewn logs, and hand made doors, windows and shingles. The shingles were split from short blocks of wood and the window frames were made and planed with special hand planes.

The women also had to be very adept at carding wool, and spinning, knitting and weaving and Mrs. Erickson was efficient in all of these handicrafts. She was an expert weaver and for many years she wove the cloth that was later fashioned into garments for her family. Another thing that a lot of visitors remembered was the wonderful waffles she made on very short notice.

When new settlers came to Mr. Erickson to buy a cow from him, he would always show his best milk cow and sell it, if a sale materialized. He always felt the purchaser should be satisfied. He believed in having good horses, both for work and for transportation, and he owned and raised some very good work horses, mainly Clydesdales. At one time he was offered \$600.00 for a matched team of mares, which he refused, and a few weeks later, one of the mares was found dead in the pasture.

He also owned a roan gelding that was a very fast trotting horse. One day when he was driving to Red Deer,

he caught up with one of the doctors, who was driving a 1910 or 1911 automobile. One of his neighbors was riding with him and he remarked to him; "Now I'll show you something." He let the horse have his head and he passed the car and arrived in Red Deer quite a bit ahead of it. The doctor, on his arrival there, looked up Mr. Erickson, and offered him a fancy price for the horse, but it was not for sale. It had been raised on the HL ranch near High River and had been trained as a cow horse, and when under the saddle behind a herd of cattle, the rider never had to touch the reins; all he had to do was guide him with the pressure of his knees and the sway of his body; but when he was hitched to a buggy he became very hard-mouthed and the severest bit had to be used to control him. He was always hitched single to a buggy as there was no other horse that could keep up to him.

Mr. Erickson assisted in organizing Swan Lake School District No. 299, which later became the Burnt Lake School District, and also the Lutheran Church.

Well remembered by early settlers for her helpfulness to them during their first years in the country and esteemed by all, Mrs. Erickson died after an illness of some months on June 8, 1935, at the age of 74. Mr. Erickson continued to farm until 1940 when he went to live with his daughter, Mrs. E. Holmgren, at Sylvan Lake, and he died there after an illness of two months on November 22, 1941, at the age of 87. Both Mr. and Mrs. Erickson are buried in the Burnt Lake Cemetery.

Of the family of two daughters and one son, **Magda** who was born in Sweden in August 15, 1887, married Elof Holmgren and they farmed in the New Hill and Centreville districts. They had two sons, Ralph and Thord. **Agnes**, was also born in Sweden on January 6, 1889, married Fred Anquetil and they lived at Red Deer and Sylvan Lake. They had one daughter, **Gretchen Levi**, was born at Burnt Lake on April 12, 1898 and married Astrid Engman of New Hill.

LEVI H. ERICKSON

Levi Erickson was born and raised in the Burnt Lake district and has resided there all his life. In 1923 he married Astrid Engman of New Hill. She passed away May 5, 1969 and is buried in the Alto Rest Memorial Garden. The family consists of three daughters: **Eileen** (Mrs. M. Marusyn) of Edmonton, **Mildred** (Mrs. G. F. Miller) of Blackfalds, and **June** (Mrs. E. Ostergren) of Edmonton. Levi and Astrid's grandchildren are Barbara



Harvesting — 1911. Levi Erickson on binder, Mr. Eric Engman with sheaves, Mr. Adrian Erickson by stook.

(now Mrs. Grant Baldry), Glen, and Gail Marusyn; Lloyd, Debra, Lois, Dick, April, and Paul Miller; Steven and Daniel Ostergren. There are two great-grandchildren, Sharman and Kimberly Baldry.

Levi, besides farming, was also occupied with road construction from 1914 until 1940. He was foreman and grader operator for a number of years.

In 1936 he was elected school trustee of the Burnt Lake S.D. No. 299, a position he held until the local school district was included in the Red Deer County. In 1955 he was elected councillor for Division 6 of the Municipal District of Red Deer No. 55. Councillors elected at this time were also trustee members of the school committee. Levi continued as councillor until his

retirement in 1974, after having served 19 years and 7 months. The changes that have taken place in transportation and education are hard to believe unless a person has seen them for himself.

DR. AND MRS. FARISH

Dr. and Mrs. Farish and infant daughter lived in Burnt Lake for about six months. They rented the house and building site on SE 27-38-1-5.

Dr. Farish, a physiotherapist, practised in Red Deer and Innisfail. The family moved from here in July 1972 to Cranbrook, British Columbia where Dr. Farish opened a business.

TOM FARMER AND FAMILY

Mr. and Mrs. Tom Farmer lived in the Burnt Lake district on SW 24-38-1-5. Tom was a veteran of World War I and one of many returned soldiers who got land along Burnt Lake through the Soldier Settlement plan.

Tom and Hilma (Kingsep) had four children: **Emily, Alice, Joe, and Arthur.**

The farm was sold in 1944, and John Lindman is the present owner.

ARCHIE FEAD

Archie Fead (pronounced Fayd) was the blacksmith in the infant town of Stockholm (NE 3-38-1-5). His shop was situated in the northwest corner of town. When it became evident that the railway would not come through the area, he moved on. He was well known in Innisfail and for many years had a shop in Penhold, Alberta.



Levi Erickson in field of oats — 1932.

ORVIL AND MINNIE FLEMING

Orvil was born in Red Deer and received his education at the Waskasoo School southwest of Red Deer. Minnie was born in Medicine Hat and moved to the Sundre district west of Olds when she was ten. They were married in 1948 and lived in or around Red Deer until moving to Burnt Lake in 1965 when they rented an acreage from Sam and Mary Smith on the old Ed Smith farm, NE 16-38-1-5.



Minnie Fleming's father Lester Bartholmes taken by the Jonas Smith house — built 1918.

Orvil and Minnie have a family of four girls and three boys. **Judy** married Eldon Lunger of Morrinville and has two boys, Chris and Rory. **Steve** lives in Red Deer. **Josie**, who married Arden Farrel, lives in Malakwa, B.C. and has one son, Chris. **Sandra** married Murray Neilson, lives in Vernon, B.C., and has one daughter, Shawna. The three younger children **Jesse**, **Howard** and **Lynn** are still at home and in school.

Orvil's father, William Fleming farmed southwest of Red Deer and raised some of the finest Clyde horses in Canada. He also worked for the C.P.R. for 30 years.

Minnie's parents farmed at Buffalo, 50 miles north of Medicine Hat, moving from there to Sundre in 1941 when the government purchased all farms in that area to make a testing station for war arms. Orvil and Minnie both had brothers in the army during World War II, and the three who went overseas all returned safely.

When Orvil went north to work in the fall of 1969, Andy Cliffe stayed at their Burnt Lake place and worked on oil rigs in the area. It snowed so much that the roads were blocked for nearly a week, so Andy snowshoed over the fields to Mary and Sam Smith's to get a ride to Sylvan Lake to purchase groceries.

One summer some honey bees moved into the old house via an upstairs window, and the Flemings had honey bees all over the house. Murray Lindman came



Orvil and Minnie Fleming on their 25th Wedding Anniversary — 1973. Back — Josie, Judy, Steve, Sandra, Jeff. Front — Minnie, Lynne, Orvil, Howie.

several times to try to get them, but finally they had to be destroyed as he couldn't get the queen bee.

In the spring of 1970 Orvil and Minnie purchased Mr. Blair's home on the south side of Sylvan Lake, and Mrs. Clark bought the Smith acreage.

CARL FORS FAMILY

Carl Fors and Martha Valinder were married in Sweden. **Engelbert**, their son was born in Sweden, April 1889. They left Sweden for Canada, stopping at Duluth, Minnesota, Port Arthur, Ontario and Winnipeg, Manitoba. Dad did carpentry and Mother was a seamstress.

They arrived at Burnt Lake 1894 and homesteaded on NW 34-37-1-5. They built a cabin from logs and later built a house from logs, bricks for chimney and fireplace were made by A. G. Lindholm.

A daughter **Selma**, was born in May 1895 and passed away in February, 1898. **Ada** was born in March, 1900. **William** was born in May, 1902.



Grandma Fors and grandson Carl Bergstrom. Making birch brooms — about 1925.

They had some sheep, chickens, cows, pigs and a team of ponies. They put up hay for feed. The land was low, frosty and wet as it rained a lot in the early days so they couldn't grow much grain. Until they were able to dig a well, they carried water for the house from a spring about a mile away.

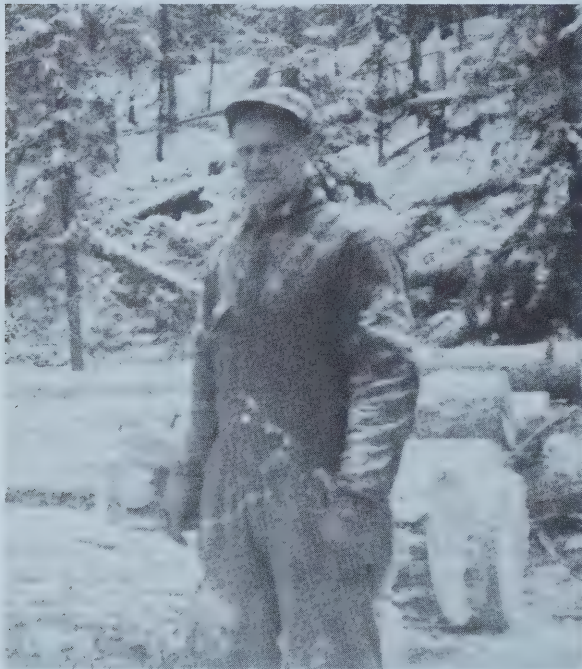
Dad built a loom so Mother carded and spun fine yarn to be woven into material and sewn into clothing for the family. She also knit socks and mitts, made woolen bats for quilts, made soap from waste fat, and made brooms and whisks from birch in the spring.

Dad passed away in October 1921, at the age of 59.

WILLIAM FORS (BILL)

Bill carried on farming with Mother after Dad passed away. Mother passed away in July 1945 at the age of 84.

William remained on the homestead and besides farming, did mechanical work, repairing machinery, etc. He played baseball with the Burnt Lake baseball team and did a lot of big game hunting in the fall. He also plays the mandolin.



Wm. Fors — 1956.

ITHAMAR WALDO (GUY) FRANCIS

Guy was born January 25, 1908 in a small town near Kingston, Ontario. In 1914 he moved with his parents to Sceptre, Saskatchewan. He lived there until 1936 when he moved to Rimbey, Alberta to farm. In 1947 he sold the farm and moved to Red Deer and married Harriet Mayner. Harriet was born in Lancashire, England and moved to the Rimbey district when she was six years old.

Guy worked in Red Deer doing carpenter work for a number of years and Harriet worked at the P.T.S. (now Mitchner Centre). They moved to Victoria, British Columbia for a year but did not like it there so moved to Calgary where Guy was employed for two years, 1954, 1955 as foreman at Burn's Ranches.

They moved back to Red Deer, and in the fall of 1960 they bought 20 acres in NE 15-38-1-5 in the Burnt Lake district from a **MRS. ALDRICH**. They took an active part in the community while they lived here, and Harriet served as president of the Women's Institute for three years. In 1963 they sold the acreage to **MR. AND MRS. LONG** from Claresholm and moved back to Red Deer.

They are now living on a nice acreage six miles east of Innisfail but often think of their friends in Burnt Lake.

There is one son, **John**, and six grandchildren living in Calgary.

REINHOLD AND IDA FRISCH — by Molly Lindman

Reinhold was born at Josephburg, a district in southeastern Alberta in 1898. He was the eldest of six children born to Mr. and Mrs. John Frisch, who immigrated to this country in 1896, from Bessarabia (now in the U.S.S.R.). He attended Concordia school in the community the family lived in at the time.

In 1919 he married Ida Deering, the eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Nathaniel Deering of the Robinson district. She was born in Bessarabia in 1900, and came to Canada with her parents at the age of three. She was told the trip across took a month. The ocean was crossed on a cattle freighter. The entire family, from grandparents down, thirteen in all, came at one time, herself being the youngest. She has six brothers and four sisters.

During the first years of Reinhold and Ida's marriage, they farmed near Hilda, Alberta. In 1925 they moved to the Norton district, southeast of Medicine Hat and farmed there until 1937, leaving during the depression with their family of four children. The Dominion Government supplied two freight cars to any farmer who wished to re-locate from the drought stricken prairies. They moved to Wetaskiwin and later to the Hay Lakes district. Two years after they left the prairies, the rains returned! In 1941 they moved to the Pine Hill district, onto the Jim Bannerman farm, and in 1958 they came to the Burnt Lake district, locating on Hudson's Bay land, SE 27-37-1-5. There was no building site on the land, a house was moved in from the Blackfalds area and remodelled, and barns and other buildings were added.

They carried on their mixed farming enterprise here until 1972 when they had an auction sale and rented out the land. The farm was sold to Ted Moore in 1974. They moved to Red Deer in 1973 where they are enjoying retirement in their home in Westpark.

During their lifetime, they have seen much progress, from hand work and horse powered implements, to the modern day diesel. The threshing operation of the Deering family in those early years was primitive. The cut grain was spread on the ground, and a horse hooked to a stone walked back and forth over the stalks to thresh out the grain. The straw was lifted off and the grain winnowed by the wind. It was carried by buckets and stored in the attic of the house, the only available storage spot.

About 1908, progress brought the horse powered threshing machine to southern Alberta. The one used was a 14 horse powered one. It was considered "modern" because it had an elevator to take away the grain. There was no blower on the machine, however, so human power, nicknamed "straw buckers" had to keep the straw away from the machine, and Reinhold in due time served in this capacity.



A header used on the prairies for harvesting.

During the dry years a header was used because the straw was too short to make a bundle with the binder. The header cut a wider swath than a binder, usually 12 or 14 feet. After the grain was cut it fell onto a platform canvas and from there was carried up the elevator by another canvas. A header box, which is similar to a hay rack, was pulled by horses alongside the header so that the grain fell from the elevator into it. When the header box was full the team of horses was driven over to a stack. Two racks were needed for the operation; a man would relay the loaded rack to the stacks being hand built and bring back an empty one. The stacked grain would be threshed by threshing machines.

Ida worked as a help mate outside as well as in the house. The milk from the cows was separated and butter was made and sold to the grocery stores for 5 to 15¢ a pound in return for groceries; eggs sold at three cents a dozen, and later when they sold cream, it sometimes brought \$1.75 for five gallons.

Much progress in housekeeping has been seen by her too. In her youth at her home, the bread was baked in a four by six foot clay oven outside. It had a chimney and was heated with a fire inside it for two hours. It was then cleaned out, the damper closed, and the risen loaves were put in and baked for 1½ hours. For a large family in those days, it was 35 loaves a week.

To heat the early home, a mud brick heater was built on an outside wall, so it could be fueled from the outside. Flax straw, wood, and even dried manure was used. This was as hot as coal. Ida's father cleaned the sheep-shed, packed the manure, and cut it in bricks and dried them out in the sun, then covered them to keep them dry. But later on, the then modern wood and coal cook stoves and heaters were available.

There are many memories of the depression of the thirties on the prairies. In 1936 the government supplied poisoned bait to try to eliminate the deluge of grasshoppers. Wheat yielded about three bushels to the acre and was sold for 19¢ a bushel, oats for 10¢. The feed for cattle and horses was Russian thistles and straw mixture. Feed was so scarce one year that the thistles were left to grow on summerfallow. Farmers came from ten to fifteen miles for this feed, and paid \$5.00 a load. Sharpening plow shares was one of the expenses as occasionally they were taken to the village blacksmith to have them "built up" and sharpened. Two sets were owned, so one could be left while the others were being used. It cost sixty to seventy cents a set. Much of the



Reinhold Frisch Family — 1941. Back — Molly, Emanuel, Martha. Front — Reinhold, George, Eva, Ida.

repairs to machinery was done in the blacksmith shop on the farm. Babbitt (like lead, but tolerating higher speed) was melted and poured into worn bearings. Horse shoeing was also done on the farm. One had to turn the bellows to keep the fire red hot, to heat the iron. Special coal for the fire cost about sixty cents for fifty pounds.

From 1926 into the thirties, there were occasions to buy stock at the pound sale. Horses were bought for one dollar each. They were branded and turned out on the open lease land. After accumulating quite a few they were herded across the United States border and sold for six dollars a piece — profitable enterprise. A spring prairie snowstorm in May of 1927 is remembered, as the horses came into the Groven Creek coulee to take shelter and about twenty head perished.

Back here in the Parkland, a storm of February 5, 1965 is an especially vivid memory for them. The Frischs had been to Red Deer and a blizzard came up. It was thirty degrees below zero Fahrenheit but they endeavored to make it home. They got stuck in the snow and thinking they were close to Alton Yarboroughs (in the Ridgewood district) they attempted to walk, but they lost their bearings. They came upon a granary and took shelter there until morning. To keep from perishing, they kept warm by moving grain from one side of the bin to the other during the long night. In the morning, they discovered that they were only a short distance from the car. A young fellow came along in a truck and took them to Oswald Moores. They suffered from exposure and the dreadful experience.

The Frischs celebrated their 50th anniversary in 1969. They have a family of five children. The oldest three attended Feldman Lake and Coal Centre schools on the prairies. The younger ones attended Lucas School, Hay Lake and Pine Hill. **Emanuel**, the eldest is now living at Rocky Mountain House with his family. He served with the Canadian Army in World War II in Italy, Belgium, Holland and Germany during the years 1942-1946. **Molly** (Mrs. John Lindman), lives in the Burnt Lake district. **Martha** (Mrs. Emil Hilman), lives in the Centerville district. **Eva** (Mrs. Chris Bolding), lives in Edmonton. **George** and family live in Edmonton. There are 22 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

KEITH AND ELAINE GIDEON

Keith and Elaine Gideon and their family of four children moved into the Burnt Lake district in 1961. They purchased NE 22-38-1-5 from Ed. Barry. This land was the original homestead of A. G. Lindholm.

Keith's parents, Ralph and Elizabeth (Bee) Gideon were farmers in the Rimbey area. When Keith was eight years old, his father passed away and his family moved to Bentley where Keith grew up and received his schooling. He has one sister.

Elaine was born and received her schooling at Three Hills, Alberta. Her parents, Lawrence and Irene Davis operated a boarding house there. She has a younger brother and sister.

Keith and Elaine were married at Three Hills in 1957. Keith has worked in seismograph work, being a surveyor and party manager. He remembers one year he was sent to Quebec, then on to the top of Ellesmere Island, 400 miles south of the North Pole, then from there directly to Alabama, U.S.A. He recalls how he felt the difference in the environment to which his system had to adjust.

The Gideons had lived in various parts of Alberta, because of Keith's work, coming to Burnt Lake from Blackfalds where they had been living in a trailer court. They improved the building site considerably while they were on this holding. There was a small one room house 18' x 20' on the location. In 1963 they bought a large house, the original Victor Moore home, from Neal Bickley, Ridgewood district, and moved it on. Keith also built a barn and a new pump house. They milked cows and raised Hampshire pigs. Keith also operated the Burnt Lake - Pine Hill school bus route for about a year and a half. In 1962 when the telephone system expanded, Keith was employed by the telephone company.

Keith and Elaine still think about the fire on Burnt Lake the spring of 1964, spotted because their farm location overlooks the lower area to the east. They came down through Lindman's, to whose hay field it had progressed, to help fight fires. Dennis Johanson, who was working on the field across from Gideons was summoned and he came with his tractor and chisel plow. Bob Herder and Bernard Schank also came. There had been some hay bottom burnt off further to the north the day before and in the heat of the day and a stiff breeze it started anew, burning a stack of hay and spreading out. John Lindman's machinery was all on the rented quarter of Nick Halvorson's, three and one half miles away, where he was working the land at the time. Molly Lindman went by car to get John and the hired help and took them down to the fire in great haste; then went back to the house to bring coffee and lunch to the crew, drove back to the lakeside, stopped the car where the tie rod dropped off. Narrow escape! The fire broke out again later that evening and Murray Lindman summoned Keith once more and the small crew worked late, but managed to extinguish the fire. This was very frightening, as it's known that fires on Burnt Lake can burn for years in the peat soil, and are impossible to extinguish.

Keith and Elaine kept a lovely bird dog, Rex. Anything with feathers on it was game to him. He'd go occasionally to Lindmans, the neighbors to the east and have a sporting time killing chickens, unknown to Keith and Elaine. One day Keith and Rex called on John and Molly and Keith noticed two dead chickens in the yard



Keith Gideon Family — 1971. Back — Larry, Elaine, Keith. Middle — Ralph, Kelly, Maureen. Front — Ian and Jamie.

and asked "Has Rex been here by chance?" "Well, yes he had." So — maybe the tin can treatment might be a good deterrent. So Rex was decorated; A double splice applied, and a shot of turpentine. A homing instinct immediately set in. He could be heard yelp - yelp - yelp as he took a short cut home through two railway fences, where he lost his decorations. Rex was home before he was missed by Elaine. But she was mystified as to why he acted so queerly when he was let in the house, so she turned him out again. Rex never returned again to the Lindmans and whenever he got sports minded, he took a different route.

The Gideons bought a larger farm north of Leslieville and moved there in July 1964. They have just completed a modern dairy set up (1976). They have six children, **Larry, Maureen, Kelvin, Ralph, Ian, and James**. They are all at home except the oldest, Larry, who is doing seismograph work in various places.

CHARLES GIERDSEN

Charles came from Denmark and settled on the NE 15-38-1-5. Memories of Charles concern the unusual strength he possessed. He could tie a binder twine around his upper arm, tighten the muscle, and break the twine. In logging camps he would shoulder a log and carry it to the skidway. Once a large calf escaped; when it was caught Charles casually picked it up and lifted it over the fence.

In 1931 Charles Gierdsen sold his land to Jens Paulsen and left the Burnt Lake scene — his whereabouts are unknown.

ERNIE AND ILENE GOLDBECK

Ernie and Ilene Goldbeck lived in the Burnt Lake district for about one year, from the fall of 1958 to the fall of 1959. They rented the land, SE 22-38-1-5 from Mrs. Emma Gronnestad.

Ernie is the oldest son of Pete and Ella Goldbeck. He was born in Edmonton but grew up in the Red Deer area on the farm of his parents just west of the city. He has a younger brother. His father passed away in 1969 and his mother is living in Red Deer.

Ilene is the daughter of George and Irene Malcolm. She was born in Innisfail. The family home was on a

farm east of Innisfail in the Aberdeen school district. They were a family of four girls.

While living in this area, Ernie farmed the land he rented, and also worked at the Provincial Training School, Red Deer as a male nurse. After accumulating a few animals, he left the Provincial Training School, and along with his farm work, worked for neighbors.

One humorous incident Ernie remembers while living in Burnt Lake was when he was asked by a neighbor to give a hand in blowing some dynamite late-late in the evening. Everything was set up and the lit match was applied to the fuse, when a car leisurely came down the abandoned roadway towards this pasture — the perfect lover's lane. The car stopped. It was too late for the dynamite party to stop the burning fuse. Ernie was concerned and said "What will happen?" The neighbor said, "I think they'll leave soon." When Ker-Boom! mud, sticks and stones were sent flying. The lovers took off. It was instant start for the car.

Ilene commented on the pleasure friends and neighbors got out of skiing and sleigh-riding on the hill behind the barn.

From Burnt Lake the family moved back to Red Deer, and lived on an acreage north of the city for a number of years. The Goldbecks are presently living on an acreage west of Bowden. They keep a few horses.

They have three children; **Shelly**, the oldest is Mrs. Garry Olsen, and a boy **Terry**, 17, and a girl **April**, 12.

MRS. JORUNN GRIMSON

Jorunn Grimson was born in Iceland, September 6, 1834. She was the mother of Sam Grimson, an early settler of the Burnt Lake area. Mr. Sam Grimson's wife died in 1900 leaving seven children, two of which were in Iceland with their grandmother, Jorunn. She then rejoined her son in Canada in 1901 and took over the care of the small family leaving the two children in Iceland to follow in 1907. Again in 1910 when Sam Grimson's second wife died, his mother Jorunn, stepped into the breach and helped care for the younger family.

Jorunn Grimson homesteaded the NE 28-37-1-5. She had four children. A daughter **Dora** who came with her to this country. Dora was a tailoress for many years. She died in Seattle, Washington at the age of 90. The sons were **Sam** and **Svein**; a third son had been drowned with his father when their fishing boat capsized off the coast of Iceland.

Jorunn died March 7, 1918 at the age of 84 and is buried in the Tindastoll Cemetery, south east of Markerville.

SIGURDUR (SAM) GRIMSON

One of the founders of the Burnt Lake community and a man who for almost sixty years contributed to its development and growth was Sigurdur (Sam) Grimson. He was born in Alftanesi in the southern part of Iceland August 9, 1861. Like his forebearers, he followed the sea as a fisherman, owning his own boat at the age of 22. The drowning of his father and brother, when their sailing ketch capsized within sight of land, engendered within Sam serious contemplation of a less hazardous future. For many generations, none of his forebears had died a natural death, all had died prematurely in their endless struggle with the sea. Hence the year 1887 found

Sam Grimson and his wife Kristina, with many of their countrymen, emigrating to Canada. After a short sojourn in Winnipeg, where he worked on the railroad, he came on to Calgary, where he also found temporary employment. In 1889 he made his first trip north to the Red Deer district and he decided to homestead there. The following winter, one of the most severe experienced in the early days, was spent along the Medicine River, near where Markerville now is, and the following spring, they moved to the Burnt Lake district.

Mr. Grimson first homesteaded SW 2-38-1-5 and tried to grow potatoes, but this being low land, they were caught by early frosts and were a failure. The following year, he planted them on higher land, and the crop was fairly successful, but because of early frosts, it still could not be considered to be satisfactory, and he decided that if he could not grow potatoes he had better find another place. He consequently had his homestead rights transferred to SE 4-38-1-5, which was much higher land. This became the family's permanent home, and a grandson still farms the land. Transportation in those early days was by ox team, or sometimes with one horse teamed with an ox, and it was not unusual for the occupants of the cumbersome wagons to dismount, take off their home-made shoes and stockings, and wade through water and mud holes, where it was all the oxen could do to haul the empty wagon across. Later the original log structure in which the Grimson family lived, became a stopover for those hardy pioneers hauling hay, wood and lumber from the area west of Evarts to Red Deer.

From the outset, Mr. Grimson was active in every project that involved improvement to, or development of the district. He had a share in the building of the first log school on the Larsen place in 1894, and altogether he served over 30 years on the Burnt Lake school board up to the time that it was absorbed in the consolidated unit. He was a councillor for L.I.D. 19-A-5 and he also served in the same capacity when it was succeeded by the Municipal District of Golden West. A Liberal in politics, he was a member of the executive of the Red Deer Liberal Association in 1902. When the Burnt Lake local of the Alberta Farmers Association, later to become the United Farmers of Alberta was formed, he was the first president. He was also a director of the Red Deer Co-operative Creamery which operated prior to the First World War, and he was an active worker in many other community endeavors.

Mrs. Grimson died in 1900, leaving five small children here as well as two who had been left with Sigurdur's mother Jorunn in Iceland. Jorunn rejoined her son and took care of the small family, leaving the two children to follow in 1907. Mr. Grimson subsequently married Ingibjorg Maxson who died on December 17, 1909 at the age of 38. In 1915, Mr. Grimson was married to Ingibjorg Einarson, who was born in Iceland on February 5, 1873 and who came to the Burnt Lake district with her four children in 1915.

A long and useful life ended, when Mr. Grimson died on December 19, 1947. His last resting place is with his first two wives and many of the other early Icelandic settlers, in the Tindastoll Cemetery. Mrs. Ingibjorg Grimson, known for years as "Grandma" Grimson, died on July 2, 1962 in the Red Deer Municipal Hospital at the age of 89. She is buried in the Sylvan Lake Cemetery.

Her family consisted of three daughters, Mrs. Paul Sveinson and Mrs. G. S. Grimson of Burnt Lake, and Mrs. George Fitch of Centerville, and a son, Einar Einarson of Innisfail. Another son, Magnus Magnusson, lived in Iceland.

Of the Sam Grimson family, a daughter **Jorunn** died in childhood, one daughter **Folda**, died during the 'flu epidemic in 1919. **Earl S.** was born in Iceland and did not come out to join the rest of the family in this country until he was 17 years of age. In 1908, he succeeded Linus Lindholm as postmaster at Burnt Lake, and in May 1909, he built a new store on the north side of the road through the hamlet, which was then the main stopping place between Evarts and Red Deer, and in November of that year, he took over a store business that had been started by J. H. Robinson. In 1912, the store was moved to Sylvan Lake, where it was operated as a hardware business. Mr. Grimson became secretary-treasurer of the Local Improvement District No. 371 and reeve of the village of Sylvan Lake and became widely and favorably known throughout the west country, being very faithful in his official capacities, and genial in his dealings with the public. In 1916, he sold the hardware business to H.H. and D. H. Jamieson, and with deteriorating health in 1918, he went with his sister, **Ella**, to Seattle, where another sister, Thura, lived and then to Portland, Oregon, where he died on May 1, 1923 at the age of 36. He was a member of Kenilworth Lodge A.F. and A.M. His sister, Ella, died shortly afterwards. **Grimur S.** was born on his parents' homestead on July 23, 1895. **Dr. Julius** received his public school education at Burnt Lake and his high school education at Red Deer. Subsequently he attended the University of Alberta, and he was a member of the first class in medicine to graduate there from. He has practiced medicine in Vancouver for many years. **Fred Einar** was born at Sylvan Lake in 1905. **Thura** married Howard Paull and lived in Seattle for many years. She is now deceased. **Christine** married Theo Solomon and lives at Santa Ana, California. **Josephine** married Fred McKinnon and resides at Water Valley, Alberta.

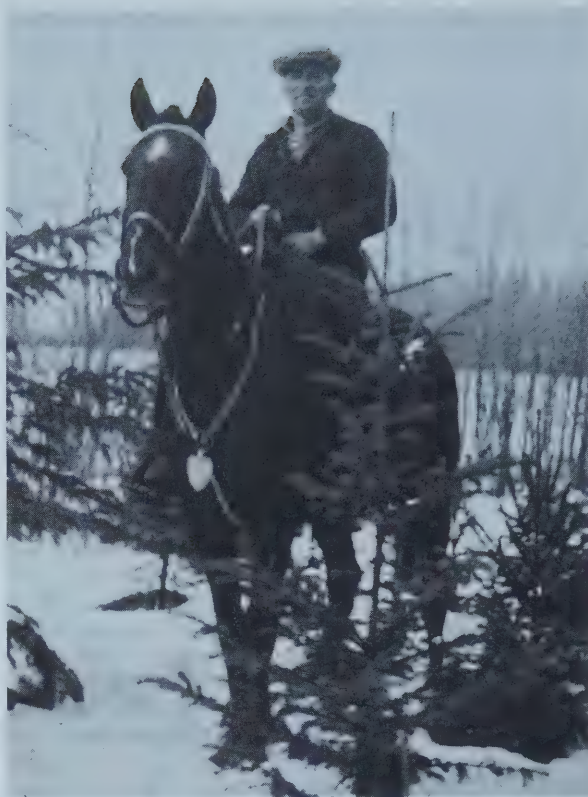
GRIMUR SAMUEL GRIMSON

Grimur Grimson was the fourth child born to Sigurdur and Kristin Grimson. He was born July 23, 1895 in the log cabin on the homestead quarter, SE 4-38-1-5. He was one of the first white infants born in the newly settled community which was to become Burnt Lake, but then known as Swan Lake.

In 1900 Grimur's mother died, leaving the father to look after the young children as Grimur's younger brother, Julius, had been born a few years earlier bringing the family to five. Sigurdur then sent for his widowed mother, living in Iceland, to come to Canada to help him take care of the small children.

Grimur went to the Swan Lake school for five years only, so was a self-educated man. He was an avid reader, and thus was a very well versed person in politics, and current events. He was always interested in local happenings.

In 1914 the First World War began, and Grimur, at the age of 21, went to serve with the Royal Canadian Navy, where he stayed until the war was over in 1918. He then came back to the Burnt Lake district, where on



Grimur Grimson — Early 1920's.

August 3, 1921 he married Christine Einarson, second daughter of Ingibjorg Einarson, who had come from Iceland with her family (See Sam Grimson story). They had eight children — five daughters and three sons.

An enthusiastic sportsman, Grimur played baseball for years, helped to further local hockey, and supported his three sons in their many sports activities. He served on the first Board of Directors of Ridgewood R.E.A. from 1948 to 1964, and on the first Board of Deacons who built the Trinity Lutheran Church in Red Deer. He was also secretary of the U.F.A., later F.U.A., and a member for years of the Central Alberta Old-Timers Association. Grimur enjoyed children and will be remembered by them as an organizer of baseball games and races at the community picnics, passing out nickels and the odd dime as prize money. Of the kind and gentle Grimur it was said, "Few men contributed as much to every worthwhile undertaking that needed support." Grimur died on June 7, 1964. His body rests in the Sylvan Lake Cemetery. His wife, Christine, is still living on the homestead farm, also his eldest son Earl, and his wife Helen, and their youngest son Ken.

The descendants of Grimur and Christine Grimson are listed below: **Alberta** married Alfred Swainson (deceased); three children, Wesley, Anne, and Dorothy May, and four great-grandchildren for Grimur and Christine. **Dorothy** married Art Carritt, Eckville; eleven children — Roy, Linda, Doug, Laurie, Chris, Melvin, Leslie, Brian, Debbie, Bradley, and Glen, and 13 great-grandchildren for Grimur and Christine. **Earl** married Helen Pugh; three children — Kathryn, Douglas,



Grimur Grimson Family — 1953. Back — LaVona, Earl, Lily, Sam, Jean, Lawrence. Front — Alberta, Christine, Grimur and Dorothy.

Kenneth and Anne Swainson (see Earl Grimson history). **Lily** married Wayne Gillete, Pine Hill; three children — Carol, Dawn, Daryl, also Dorothy May (see Swain Swainson history). **Sam** married Margaret Cook, Edmonton; three children — Greg, Cindy and Jeff. **LaVona** married Don Willems, Helena, Montana, U.S.A.; three children — Rebecca, David and Timothy. **Jean** married Bud Finley, Edmonton; three children — Lori, Kandy and Kym. **Lawrence** married and three children — Kim, Shannon and Ronald.

EARL B. GRIMSON

Earl was born February 18, 1926 in the house on the farm on SE 4-38-1-5. He was the third child of Grimur and Christine Grimson, their first son. He started school at the age of six, travelling by horse and buggy one and one half miles to the Burnt Lake school. His two older sisters, Alberta and Dorothy, were also going. He spent the next seven years at Burnt Lake, then to Red Deer where he continued his high school. While in Red Deer he stayed at the Dormitory. During his years at Burnt Lake the winters were spent cleaning off the ice rink at the school so that the boys could play hockey at noon and recesses. Sometimes, after school, before the chores at home had to be done, there would be time for a practice. Earl was an avid hockey player for many years. He played with the Burnt Lake Clippers, then on to Intermediate "A" with Drumheller for a short time, however, after he had married and his second child, a boy, was born in 1953, he felt he should spend more time at home so his hockey playing days were over.

After his high school Earl decided to further his farming knowledge and went to Olds Agricultural College for two years, graduating in 1947. He then went back to the farm to farm with his father. Shortly after returning home he met and married Helen Pugh, second daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bob Pugh of Sylvan Lake. They were married March 27, 1951. This was a spring they would not forget. A week before the wedding a very severe snow storm blew through central Alberta, piling drifts many feet high, blocking all roads in and out of the surrounding cities and towns. Earl walked six miles from the farm to Sylvan Lake where he and Helen took a train to Red

Deer so they could get their marriage license. It took two hours by train to go the thirteen miles. The train was full of people who had also been stranded in other towns. The day of the wedding was bright and warm; however, in order for the guests from Burnt Lake to get there they had to have their cars pulled through fields to the main roads that had been snow plowed. They built their first home on NW 4-38-1-5 making it necessary for Earl to drive back and forth to the home place each day. This land was originally homesteaded by **Axel Nelson** in 1899, but had been part of the Grimson farm for many years.

On Mother's Day May 11, 1952 their first child was born, Kathryn Jean, then a second, this time a boy, Douglas, on May 28, 1953. In November 1953 tragedy struck the Grimson family with the death in an automobile accident of Earl's sister and brother-in-law, Alberta and Alfred Swainson. They left behind three children, a son Wesley, two daughters Anne and Dorothy. Earl and Helen's family increased to three with the coming of Anne. By this time the house was too small to handle their family so rather than try to build up two farms, they sold ten acres to Mr. and Mrs. **Jack McLean** of Red Deer. This was in March of 1958, and they then moved down to the home quarter and built a new home there, where Earl continued to farm with his father. In September 1959 another son Kenneth, was born bringing their family to four.

In June 1964 Earl's father passed away suddenly at home. This was a real shock to all the family. Earl continued farming until August, 1971 when he went to work for Co-op Insurance in Red Deer, later opening an office in Lacombe which he is at present (1976) managing.

Anne and Kathy started school at Burnt Lake, Anne going two years and Kathy just one as they closed the Burnt Lake school in the fall of 1958 and the children were bussed to Sylvan Lake. Doug started in grade one that year. **Anne** took all her schooling there and went on to Red Deer College where she took a secretarial science course. There she met Peter Sisson who was working for an oil company. He was transferred to Warri Nigeria and



Earl Grimson Family — 1966. Anne, Kathy, Earl, Doug, Ken and Helen.



Constable Douglas Grimson, R.C.M.P. — 1975 and dog Prince.

Anne joined him there and they were married January 1, 1974. They now reside on a farm near Joffre, Alberta. **Kathryn** received most of her schooling at Sylvan Lake, but she took the last two years of high school in Red Deer at the Lindsay Thurber High School. She too went on to the Red Deer College and took one year towards a Bachelor of Arts degree. However this was not what she wanted so she went to Edmonton to N.A.I.T. where she took a course in Radio and Television graduating after one and one half years. She is presently employed as Program Director at Q.C. Television in Edmonton. Kathy was married to Richard Clavier on July 6, 1974. **Douglas** took his elementary schooling at Sylvan Lake and all of his high school in Red Deer. He entered training in Regina with the R.C.M.P. in November 1972 and graduated in May 1973. He is presently posted at Haney, British Columbia. **Kenneth** the youngest, is presently attending high school in Red Deer and is looking forward to getting a commercial pilots license.

Earl and Helen and Ken are still living on the home quarter. They rent out the land to a neighbor, however, Earl still has some beef cattle and he commutes between Lacombe and home everyday. Before Earl began in the Insurance business, he was very active in the Co-op and farm organizations. He was on the board of Directors for the Co-op store for many years, helping to organize the building that is now the Co-op store in Red Deer. He served as U.F.A. delegate for six years from 1964 to 1970. He helped form the Burnt Lake Gas Co-op, getting natural gas to the Burnt Lake and surrounding districts by 1969. He served as chairman until 1975.

FRED GRIMSON (1905-1965)

Fred was born in Sylvan Lake and grew up in the Burnt Lake district. He attended the Burnt Lake School and, as a young man, began his farming career with Sam

and Grimur Grimson. In addition, he did extra jobs such as sawing firewood and threshing, cleaning and crushing grain in the community.

In 1938 Fred married Doris Hambrook who had come in 1927 to the Pine Hill district from Dover, England. Fred and Doris lived in the Centerville district for two years before moving to their own property (S½ 8-38-1-W5) in Burnt Lake. The winters of 1938-46 they spent in lumber camps near Rocky Mountain House or Caroline where Fred, with the help of his brothers-in-law, built two saw mills. They sawed the lumber they used in building the camp cabins, as well as most of the lumber for the house and buildings on the farm.

In 1946 Fred and Doris returned to full-time farming and developed yet another "sideline" — brush cutting, piling and plowing. With three two-man crews running the cats, plus one fieldwork crew, Fred became more involved with welding and repairwork for each of the outfits. During this time he pioneered some "farm mechanization" schemes: he made one of the first mechanized hay sweeps in the district using the front ends of two trucks; he converted an old horse-drawn header into a swather; and he devised a grain handling system using threshing machine augers for his 1932 Maple Leaf truck. One fall he was short of hired help so he figured out how he could both drive the cat and operate the pull-type combine without having that extra, non-existent help. He drove the cat from the bridge of the combine by pulling ropes attached to the levers on the tractor.

In 1952 he attended the Southern Institute of Technology in Calgary to take a welding course which would allow him to weld for the general public. As his welding business grew, he also built milk vans for Red Deer's Alpha Milk Company and at the same time farmed his land plus some rented land near Sylvan Lake and in Centerville. In 1964 Fred went to Alaska to do welding for an oil company and at this time he sold all but 40 acres of the farm where Doris and Gail still live.

His death in July 1965 marked the passing of a man who was strongly community-minded and who had been actively involved in the whole range of community projects from the annual picnic organization to hockey club promotion to UFA support, and so on.

His son, **Ray**, lives in Brooks with his wife Alexis (nee Ray of Beaverlodge) and two sons, Gavin and Corbett. Ray is manager-nutritionist for Lakeside Feeders, while Alexis teaches in elementary school.

Marilynne (Mim) lives in Olds where she is an instructor in Secretarial Arts at Olds College.

SVEIN GRIMSON

Svein (or Swain) Grimson was born in Alftanesi, Iceland in 1875. He spent his early childhood there, then came to Canada to the Burnt Lake district and homesteaded on the quarter section now owned by Olaf Wold and Son, SW 4-38-1-5. He then went into partnership with a Scotsman named William Doeg. They ran a flock of sheep ranging from 500 to 1500. However this partnership broke up after a few years.

Svein went to Winnipeg, met a girl named Runi, brought her back to Burnt Lake, and in 1908 they were married. That same year they moved to Vancouver where Svein became a longshoreman. He and Runi had a family of three boys and one girl. **Elias** was born July 31, 1912

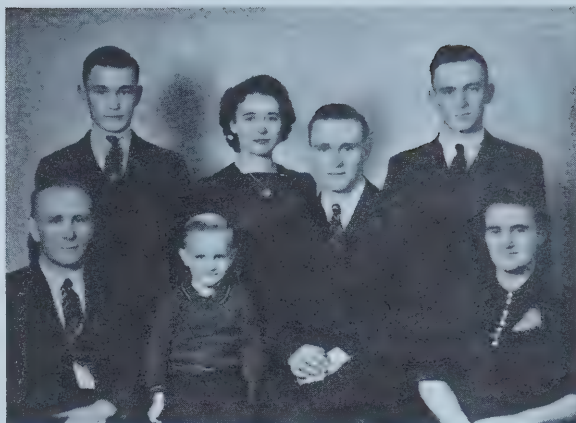
and died February, 1972. **Joe** was born in 1913 and is living in Los Angeles, U.S.A. **Albert** was born in 1915, and was with the R.C.A.F. as a tailgunner. He was shot down and killed over Germany in 1943. **Margaret** was born about 1917 and is living in Vancouver. Svein died about 1938 or 1940 and Runi in 1957.

THE GRONNESTAD FAMILY — by Margaret Stephens

Emma and Jorgen Gronnestad moved into the Burnt Lake district in 1936, from a farm west of Sylvan Lake. They purchased three quarters of land, S½ 23-38-1-5 and SE 22-38-1-5. The latter was the site of the old Cronquist homestead. The nearest neighbors were Sandy Smiths, Carl Johansons, Lindholms, Lindmans and Jim Paulsen.

Jorgen was born in Norway and came to Canada at the age of 16, where he made his home with Andrew Halvorson at Strongfield, Saskatchewan. Emma was born in Iowa and moved to Strongfield at the age of seven. They were married at Strongfield and moved to Alberta in 1923. Jorgen passed away as the result of a farm accident in June, 1954. Emma, Gordon and Roy remained on the farm until 1956, when they moved to Red Deer. Emma worked for the Peacock Inn and Deerhome until her retirement in 1969.

Emma and Jorgen had six children, one of whom died at birth in 1924. **Margaret** attended Calgary Normal School in 1942-43, taught several years and married Roy Swainson in 1947. They resided on the Lewis farm, where Roy raised turkeys on a large scale. Later they bought the Tom Stephens farm, selling it in 1954 to Don Ballantyne, and moved to Red Deer where Roy was in the oil business. They had four sons. In 1964 Roy moved to Calgary. In 1968 Margaret moved to Edmonton, later to Winnipeg, then to Taber and back to Red Deer, where she is still teaching. In 1975 she married Graham Stephens. Clem, the eldest of the Roy and Margaret's sons, works at Southside Trailer Sales. He has made his home with Jack and Jackie Swainson in the Burnt Lake district for the past 10 years. During this time he has spent several winters working with Pan Arctic Oils in the Arctic. Jim worked in Calgary for several years but now manages Spirit Trading, a boutique in Red Deer. He and his wife Vicki have two daughters, Leigh and Jayme. Bill lives in Calgary where he sells laser equipment to construction companies. Donald lives in Red Deer and works for Cosmos Enterprises at Penhold. **Alfred Gronnestad** spent one and one half years in the naval services in World War II, following which he worked with Fred Grimson cutting brush for one year. He then was employed by G.S.I. (Geophysical Seismograph Incorporated) Services. He spent two years in Angola, Africa, then attended the University of Alberta obtaining a degree in geophysical sciences. He moved to Anchorage, Alaska, where he married Patricia Boblin in 1964. They have two daughters, Crystal and Melissa. They lived in Dallas, Texas for two years, then returned to Anchorage where they still live. **Raymond Gronnestad** worked on the farm until 1955, then moved to Edmonton, where he started work with Woodward's. In December, 1955 he married Virginia Wheeler, who passed away in 1968. They had one daughter Marilyn, who is training as a dietary technician in Yellowknife, N.W.T. In 1971 Raymond married Frances Nordstrom and they live in Ed-



The Gronnestad Family — 1944. Back — Gordon, Margaret, Raymond. Seated — Jorgen, Roy, Alfred, Emma.

monton. **Gordon Gronnestad** lived on the farm, worked with oil crews, then when he moved to Red Deer, began work at Deerhome, where he is still working. **Roy Gronnestad** worked with Sorenson Bus Lines in Red Deer for seven years. He moved to Edmonton in 1967, where he started with Greyhound Bus Lines and since has worked there continuously. In 1970 he married Margaret de Beurs. Their first son Dennis became ill with cancer and at the age of one year had to have a kidney removed. The operation was successful but the follow up treatments proved too much for his weakened resistance and he passed away in 1974 at the age of two years. A second son, Gary, was born in July, 1975.

GEORGE F. GUDER

George Guder was born in 1932 in the small village of Hohenpetersdorf in Lower Silesia. He attended elementary school there and was transplanted to West Germany in July of 1946.

George spent six years of apprenticeship and training in Agriculture Schools in Rhineland, Westphalia and also took part in exchange programs. Through this training he spent one year each in Finland, England and France, working on farms. He also worked at a Farm Machinery School for three years.

In 1960 he emigrated to Canada and worked on farms in Southern Alberta for two years and also attended the Olds School of Agriculture.

In May, 1966 George purchased the NE 3-38-1-5 from Carl Engman. The dwelling on this property is one of the oldest buildings in the townsite, built by Andrew Nyberg and used as a store and Post Office. George has moved the house onto a cement foundation and renovated it into a modern home.

George obtained his Canadian Citizenship in 1968.

Since 1963 George has worked for oil companies and from 1971 to the present (1976) he has worked north of the Arctic Circle in the exploration for oil.

GUDMUNDUR GUDMUNDSON

Gudmundur Gudmundson came to the Burnt Lake district with his wife in 1899. They came from North Dakota with Henry Reinholt and his family and with Olav Peterson and his family.

Gudmundur filed on a homestead, the SE 34-37-1-5 but gave up the idea of farming in a short time and this quarter was later filed on by Eric Charlson of the Pine Hill district and is now owned and farmed by Stanley Swainson.

The Gudmundsons moved to Red Deer in the early years of the century and Gudmundur worked for Henry Reinholt in the construction work. They had one son, **Oscar**.

THE BERT GUTTAU FAMILY — by Inez Gathercole

My father, Bert Gutttau came from Iowa, U.S.A. to Saskatchewan, then to the Peace River district. Mom came from Saskatchewan to the Peace River district and they were married at Notakiwin, Alberta in 1932. They took up a homestead at North Star. Dad sold the farm there because the school was so far away and they were unable to get teachers.

Our family came to the Burnt Lake district in March 1947, having bought the Sandy Smith farm, NW 14-38-1-5. Dad and Mom and the youngest, Marilyn, moved in first to do the spring work. The rest of us were going to school in Huxley and staying with our Aunt Doris Watt. When school closed in June we came to live at Burnt Lake, where we enjoyed the farm and the swimming in Sylvan Lake. Doris Watt and her family came and stayed at the farm with us that summer. She eventually sold her home at Huxley and moved to Sylvan Lake.

Our nearest neighbors were Jens Paulsen, Oscar Johansons and the Gronnestads. We milked Jersey cows and sold cream while on the farm. We made gallons of good rich ice cream in the shade of the house. One thing that I remember was a party that we went to at Oscar Johansons. Doreen, my cousin, and I walked to their place. It had been raining and was very muddy so we went in our bare feet and carried our shoes and good clothes for the party where we had a good time and spent the night.

Dad hurt his back in the fall and was unable to look after the farm. He sold out to Ed Teierle and we moved into Sylvan Lake to live. We lived in Sylvan Lake until 1952 when Dad went to Peace River to work as a mechanic. My folks later moved to Dawson Creek, British Columbia. Mom passed away in 1964 and Dad now lives in Vancouver, British Columbia.

Mom and Dad had five children, the first three were born at home, only the last two were born in the hospital. The children are all married and altogether there are 18 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. **Marilyn**, the youngest, is Mrs. Clinton Livingston. They have two girls and are living in England where Clinton is employed with an oil company. **Pat**, now Mrs. Peter Pervaski, lives in Cold Lake, Alberta. Peter is with the Canadian Forces (Air). They have a girl and a boy. **Joan**, Mrs. Val Blakley, lives at Grimshaw, Alberta. They farm and have three girls, three boys and three granddaughters. **Kenny** and Phylis live at Charlie Lake and have three boys. Ken is a truck driver. **Inez**, Mrs. Joe Gathercole, lives at Sylvan Lake. They have two girls and three boys. Joe is a gardener with the Government of Alberta.

JOHN HAAK

John Haak, born and raised in Sweden, came to Canada before the turn of the century seeking a new home for his family. His wife and children followed

within two years. Records show that he homesteaded SW 10-38-1-5 in 1899, on which he built some log shelters.

This land was heavily timbered with poplar trees, and as he desired more open land suitable for cattle raising he bought the S½-26-37-1-5 from the Hudson's Bay Company. He moved his family and buildings to the new site and this became their permanent home.

For a few years they lived in a section of a long log building. At one end was the dwelling, followed by the horse barn, with the cattle in the far end. Very soon, however, they built a snug log house situated on a high knoll about 100 yards from the stable and from which they had a good view of the farm. In 1953 a larger frame house was built and the old one used for fire wood.

There were nine children: six boys, **John, Edwin, Carl, Gus, Knute** and **Rudolph**, and three girls, **Nora** (Mrs. Patchett), **Mary** and **Madge** (Mrs. Horace Hamson). John, the oldest boy, was a bridge inspector for the Canadian National Railway and resided in Winnipeg until his death. Gus was for years a trapper in Northern British Columbia. Only two are now (1976) living; Edwin still on the farm and Madge of Kamloops, British Columbia.

LEONARD AND CORA HACKER — by Lillian Reynolds

Leonard, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Hacker, was born at Ellington, Iowa, April 29th, 1880. He had two sisters and one brother. Leonard took his schooling in Iowa.

Cora, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. S. Darch, was born at Mayville, N. Dakota, December 10th, 1886. She had four brothers and four sisters. Aunt Cora took her schooling in N. Dakota.

They both grew up and worked here and there. They both were very fond of music and dancing, and when they met at one of the dances, their romance started.

They farmed at Hillsboro, Cumings and Burton, N. Dakota on a section of land that they rented. They heard so much about Canada, that this was where to come if you wanted to make "money by barrellfuls". They sold out down there, bought three "forty-five-gallon barrels", to put their money in that they were to make. They arrived here in the spring of 1926, bought a section of land (Sec-5-38-1-W-5-M) in the Burnt Lake district, four miles south of Sylvan Lake, Alberta. They bought a full line of machinery, horses, cattle, pigs, chickens and turkeys and set out to farm, breaking more land with the horses and tractor (popping John) and doing a lot of grain farming and haying. They would hire help during the busy part of the season.

Aunt Cora had a set time for her chores, four o'clock in the morning and four o'clock at night to milk the cows, winter and summer. She separated the milk and cream, feeding the milk to calves, pigs and cats, then churned the cream into one-pound molds of butter and sold it, or sold the cream in cans. Later they shipped whole milk to the Red Deer Condensery, which was much less work.

Uncle Leon was well recognized for superior horsemanship and beautiful horses.

They would work through the week, going to Sylvan Lake Saturday nights. In those days it was the custom of the country folk to take this weekly evening off to shop, attend the movie-theatre, visit with friends, argue politics, discuss world events and enjoy the fellowship



Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Hacker — around 1900.

of both town and country. It was time for hair cuts, pool games, and time to attend the dances at Hussfeldt's and Varsity Hall on the Lake front where you could watch or dance a "Jitney" for ten cents a dance.

The Hacker's hospitality was well known, any one at their table never got up hungry, always lots to eat. They were both hard workers, honest, loving and kind. Uncle Leon was great for telling jokes and stirring up a lot of laughter. They played for many house and barn dances, Leonard on the violin and Cora on the organ or piano. People came from far and near to hear them play the old time music and have fun. There was always a big and happy crowd.

The Hackers had no children of their own. They had farmed this section for three years, when in January 1929, Uncle Leon's niece and nephew, **Lillian and Floyd Hansen** came from U.S.A. to live with them. Floyd went back to the States in 1933. Lillian married Arthur Reynolds in 1934, but lived close by so they could help if needed. The Hackers farmed this section fifteen years in all, and they were still trying to get the first "forty-five-gallon barrellful" so gave it up as a hopeless case. They decided to sell out in 1944 and retire while they had fairly good health. They moved to Garden Grove, California that summer, and bought a house and lot. Uncle Leon mowed lawns and trimmed hedges for something to do. They lived in Garden Grove for 18 years before their passing. Uncle Leon passed away October 30th, 1962, Aunt Cora November 17th, 1964. Both are buried at Westminster Memorial Park, Westminster, California.

BRUCE HAGERMAN

I, Arthur Bruce Hagerman, was born 1900 in Unionville, just north of Toronto. My mother died when I was ten years old so our family moved west to Unity, Saskatchewan. In 1919 I arrived at Sylvan Lake for a visit with my brother Reid, but ended up with a job at the Bank there. Three days a week during the winter of 1919, one teller and I carried money and operated a branch out of the lumber yard office in Benalto.

Courting days with Miss Ada Foucher had already begun. We tipped a 1916 Light Six Buick touring car straddling the creek just east of Sylvan Lake. This was blamed on a missing railing and loose timber! The memory of this incident lingered on; for in turning the car back over I injured my knee which gave me trouble for many years. In September 1920 I quit the bank to take off the crop on Reid's land which he had purchased from the Armstrongs (Sec. 5-38-1-5). The crop was cut with a Ford Coupe. It had a tractor wheel attachment and



Ada and Bruce Hagerman. Wedding — 1921.

pulled the binder, doing a wonderful job. Indians were hired for stooking. The crop had been originally seeded by broadcasting, then double disced after the first of June. July 18, 1921 I married Ada Foucher. Her family, from Saginaw, Michigan, had homesteaded here in 1898, following the deaths of three of her sisters from Black Diphtheria. Red Deer was the end of the railroad. Ada was one of the first babies born here. We rented by the year and remained on the Armstrong place for five years. Many a long winter was spent listening to one of the first radios, a three tuber bought for \$60.00. One earphone was shared by couples who were courting in those days, now known as Mr. and Mrs. Grimur Grimson, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Sveinson and Mr. and Mrs. George Fitch. Who cared sharing an earphone? Cosy, eh!

The year 1922 was quite dry, 20 acres were threshed into a 60 bushel box. In 1923, 15 acres were added to these 20 and reaped 1300 bushels. 1923 and 1924 were the cheese years. Forty to fifty pounds of cheese were processed daily. Each cheese had to be washed with a strong salt brine solution daily and it took three weeks for each cheese to cure. This cheese was kept in a building over the main spring on this property, a crude refrigeration but very satisfactory. 1923 was the only year I did not drive a car, as much of the cheese was delivered to Red Deer by horse and democrat.

Our first child **Agnes** was born. Her husband, Felix Duval, was a C.N.R. engineer. They have four sons Bill, Jim, Bob and Philip.

In 1925 it was a wet year. Threshing started October 25th. Some people had even turned the sheaves but that only caused more sprouting. I served as secretary for the Telephone Company and was on the Centerville School Board.

Upon the death of my father who had lived with us some, we decided in 1926 to go to Chaplin, Saskatchewan to farm with my brother Percy. In 1927 on returning from a visit by rail to Alberta, we were held up for 24 hours due to a train wreck. None of our party was injured, although many had been severely hurt as some of the cars had turned on their sides during the night. Without lights there was much confusion.

We were unfortunate to lose our set of twins, **Ethel** and **Elmer**, June 2, 1927 soon after birth.

In 1928 it was a profitable year and \$8000.00 bought a combine, swather, tractor, car, piano, lighting plant, electric washing machine and truck.

During these 11 years two more daughters were born; **Gertrude**, Mrs. Ewart McDonald is farming with her husband near Eckville. Bernadette, Adair and Vivian have blessed this marriage; **Aneta**, who married Howard Halvorson of Burnt Lake.

The years 1931 and 1932 were not so good. In 1932 we were the only ones to run a car or truck and so took many a neighbor's cream to town and returned with the necessities of groceries. We kept the rural school open by boarding the teachers — on note. This was credited against our taxes so we had more money to spend! 1932 saw my first one-way with seeder. We got back into cattle and with the possibility of the grasshopper infestation that threatened to eat up their feed, we were prompted to move back to Alberta, October 10, 1936. We brought all our settlers goods in three train cars which neighbors had so helpfully helped us to load. Most of these neighbors left Saskatchewan soon after to settle in the Okanagan Valley.

We bought a farm from Ed Sawyer, NE and W½ 20-38-1-5 for \$20.00 an acre. The Canada Life Insurance in-

spector would only agree to sell us this land if we left the combine in Saskatchewan. This was no combining country! Previous to our residence here, there had been two disasters. A Kaila boy fell over the embankment to a basement garage and lost his life. A fully modern house with lighting plant and sewage built about 1920 had burned. While building a new home and living in a granary, Mrs. Sawyer started a fire with an explosive and was burned and died as a result. We were told by so many to beware! This house being built was not completed. When we moved into it in 1936 it had to be made liveable and a barn built for the stock before winter. The fall was mild, the barn built and many a nail pounded far into the night to finish the house. This house was to see our family grow by three sons.

These next nine years, 1938-1946, proved busy. A herd of cattle were milked plus milk and cream brought in from neighbors to be bottled and delivered into Sylvan Lake. Three pre-school boys had to be taken on this route daily, along with clanging bottles. Any refrigeration was done in an ice house. Proceeds helped to buy four more quarters of land to add to the three we already had; Welton (N½ 21-38-1-5), Norma (SW 2-39-1-5) and Faucher (SE 10-39-1-5). A combine was again purchased in 1939 and straight combined seven quarters successfully. (This is without swathing). Automation helped in the milking barn with the purchase of a milk machine in 1942. House appliances like a refrigerator in 1947, were run from our own 32 volt system, purchased in 1928 and now helped out by a wind charger. No rural electrification yet! A swather was again added to the machinery line and we were one of the first to swath hay.

We were fortunate enough to maintain a modern farm with machinery and cars, which I believed helped in influencing our sons to stay on the farm. **Jack** married Valarie Lehman of Calgary, a city girl who became farm wife. They have three children, Darcy, and twins Tammy and Todd. They farm in the Bentley area. **Tom** and **Bruce Jr.** bought the home quarter, N.E. 20-38-1-5, along with the four others in close proximity in 1966. Ada and Bruce Sr. built a new home on the old Faucher homestead, S.E. 10-39-1-5 in 1966 and live there in semi-retirement.

In 1974 I sold the Norma school quarter, SW 2-39-1-5. Bruce Jr. and Tom, still in partnership, purchased additional land in the Markerville district in 1975 where Bruce Jr. and his family now live.

In 1975 we bought a motor home for short summer vacations while living in the Prevo district. We use this vehicle to drive to Mesa, Arizona so spent our warm winters, in a mobile home. Our family of six children, 17 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren write to us often during these months to keep us informed of the many local happenings. We subscribe to "The Advocate" for news and to compare grocery and other prices.

Ada served on the school board from 1947 to 1955, and through the Sylvan Lake chapter of the I.O.D.E., was active in the clothing bank from 1944 to 1974.

To Our Mother and Father who have just celebrated their 55th wedding anniversary, treating us to a family reunion: "Who have never made a mistake; perhaps a calculated error; through their foresight and our observation, have all gained in shaping our destiny." — The Hagerman children.



Moving bee — October 1936.



The Hagermans on Bruce and Ada's 55th Wedding Anniversary — July 18, 1976. Left — Shirley and Bruce Jr., Denise and Clint. Middle

— Ada and Bruce. Right — Dixie holding Tanya and Tom holding Jordan.

BRUCE JR. AND TOM HAGERMAN

This farm, NE 20-38-1-5, was bought by Tom and his brother Bruce in 1966 from their parents, Bruce and Ada Hagerman, who had owned the property for some 30 years. Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Hagerman had returned to this area from Saskatchewan with their three daughters, and then had three sons — Tom being the youngest.

After attending school in Sylvan Lake and Red Deer, Tom went on to Olds Agricultural College and upon completing a farm management course there, went into partnership with his brother Bruce. Bruce had married Shirley Airey of the Hespero district earlier that year and they have two children, **Clint** and **Denise**. Tom married Dixie Strathman of the Lacombe area in 1970 and they also have two children, **Jordan** and **Tanya**.

When Tom and Bruce decided to expand their farming operation in 1974, they purchased land near Markerville and Bruce and his family moved there, although the two farms are still farmed in partnership.

TAUNA HAKALA

The Hakalas arrived in the Burnt Lake district from Winnipeg, Manitoba in 1964. They bought the SE 16-38-1-5 from N. N. Halverson and took up residence immediately. They had fallen in love with the natural beauty of the evergreen timber and running water.

Later in 1973 they sub-divided a small acreage on which Mr. and Mrs. Hansen built a cosy home among the spruce trees.

In 1974 this acreage was sold to Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Kroetsch. These new occupants are living there now, while Mr. and Mrs. Hakala are living in the big house on the hill.

Mr. Hakala is an accomplished metal worker, and makes beautiful metal ornaments.

DON AND DONNA HALL NW ¼ Sec. 36-37-1-W5

Don is originally from Wilkie, Saskatchewan and Donna comes from Viking, Alberta. They have six children: **Beverly, Brian, Dean, Roger, Katherine, and Douglas.**

Don was a rodeo cowboy. Donna was a wonderful person to have as a neighbor, and this district suffered a loss when the Halls moved to the Lavesta district northwest of Rimbey.

THE JOHN HALVERSON FAMILY — by Dwight Sawyer

The following article presented as she remembers it by Mrs. Lydia (Halvorson) Bergstrom of Eckville, Alberta. She is now a widow of 86 years young, still minds her home, attends the yard, garden and flowers, which I must say is one of Eckville's beauty spots.

"REMINISCENCE OF AWAY BACK WHEN"

In the spring of 1893, my parents Mr. and Mrs. John Halverson, together with their family of two children, a boy **Nick** and a girl **Lydia**, also another family by the name of Mr. and Mrs. Anders Agren and their family of three children, Ulrika, Hannah and Fred immigrated to North America. We parted at Halifax, Nova Scotia. The Halversons went to U.S.A. where we stayed for two years, while the Agrens came west and settled in the Burnt Lake district.

In 1895, my folks (the Halversons) came in to the Canadian North-West-Territories which also contained Burnt Lake. We moved in with our friends the Agrens, in a log house with a sod roof, and no floor other than solid ground. It was a cosy little house, warm and easily kept.

My father (John Halverson) took up a homestead, the SE-16-38-1-5. This land was heavily timbered and stony, but it had two good natural springs for water supply, so with wood and water we were all set. We built a two room log cabin with a shingled roof that did not leak much, and it boosted a rough plank floor that wasn't quite level, and a door that did not open very easily all the way, yet it was the best house around, and we were quite content and happy. All our clearing was done by hand, as this was way before any one had heard of a tractor or a bull-dozer. We cut the timber and sawed it into piles of stove-wood. We grubbed out the stumps and picked the roots and hauled them off from about 100 acres.



John Halverson Family — 1912. Mrs. Halverson, Mr. Halverson, Hilda, Nick and Lydia.



John Halverson Family — 1912. Back — Lydia, Hilda, Nick. Front — Mr. and Mrs. Halverson.

We left for U.S.A. in 1901, and returned to the homestead in 1904. Sister **Hilda** was born in 1903 near Seattle, Washington.

One of our school teachers was a Mr. Eggleton, who lived near Red Deer, and drove a single horse with a two-wheel cart. That was when the school house was located near the cemetery. We 'kids' were a bit scared of this man teacher.

In 1919 I met and married John Hillberg (photographer) in Anaconda, Montana. We lived there for a short time, five years in Twin Falls, Idaho, and four years in Bellingham, Washington where John passed away in February 1929. In October 1929 I returned to Canada, built a house in Sylvan Lake, Alberta, and lived there for five years. In 1934 I sold this house and in December 1934 I married John Bergstrom of Diamond Valley (south of Eckville). In 1946 John and I sold our farm, held an auction sale and moved to an acreage at Eckville. In April 1961 John passed away. That summer I sold the acreage, and I am now living alone on 52nd Avenue in Eckville, Alberta.

Brother Nick remained on father's homestead until he and wife Bertha retired to Sylvan Lake in 1964. Nick was a great reader, played the organ and was a genuine conservative. I often heard him expressing, "once a conservative, always a conservative."

Father Halverson passed away in April 1921. Sister Hilda stayed with mother and brother Nick on the homestead farm until she met and married Dwight Sawyer of Lacombe-Joffre district in 1934. Mother stayed with the Sawyers until her passing in August 1943. Both Father and Mother are buried in the Burnt Lake Cemetery.

ANDREW AND LYDIA HALVORSON

Andrew John Halvorson, whose parents had come from Norway, was born March 1886 at Hillsboro, North Dakota. Looking for land of their own, Andrew and a brother came in 1906 to the Strongfield area of Saskatchewan. Andrew filed on a homestead and es-



Mrs. Halvorson's sod home in Saskatchewan, built before 1910.

tablished himself, but his brother, not finding land to his satisfaction, returned to North Dakota.

Lydia Syhre, also of Norwegian parents, was born 1894 in Pierpont, South Dakota. Her parents both died when she was seven years of age, and when her older sister went out to work she went to live with her aunt and uncle, who were closely related, since both her aunt and uncle were sister or brother to either her father or mother, making the children of the two families double first cousins.

When Lydia's sister and husband came to Saskatchewan in 1906, she came with them. They homesteaded on the quarter next to Andrew Halvorson, so the acquaintanceship began. Lydia relates how they lived in a sod house, which was remarkably warm and

roomy. The inside was plastered and whitewashed every year. There was no school at the time. A certain number of children were required to warrant a school. By counting potential pre-schoolers the parents were successful in getting a school. Lydia attended this first school, which was rapidly filled up by children of new settlers. A church was also a necessity and she remembers the building of the first Lutheran Church.

Andrew Halvorson and Lydia Syhre were married in Saskatchewan in 1911. Eight years and four children later they were looking for land to expand their holdings. But owing to the rapid influx of settlers and enlargement of holdings by those already there, suitable land was unavailable.

A neighbor and friend, John Soberg, had already moved to Alberta and sent back good reports. He had purchased the SW 16-38-1-5 south of Sylvan Lake. Andrew came to look over the land prospects, with the result that he bought from Sara Kingston, the absentee owner, the W½ 9-38-1-5.

This unimproved land had no buildings or clearings. Andrew returned to Saskatchewan to dispose of his land there while John Soberg built him a good granary on the new land. This was home for the Halvorson family when they arrived in April 1919. Before winter arrived the new house, with the help of carpenter Otto Johanson, had been finished. Here they made their permanent home, raised six children, reached a helping hand to anyone in need, opened their hearts and home to countless friends, and became an indispensable part of the Burnt Lake community.

Mrs. Halvorson recalls that when they arrived in Alberta, a team and buggy or wagon was their only means of travel. Later they acquired a "Bennett" buggy, but very early, Andrew bought a Model T Ford to which he became very attached. Later models appeared on the



Halvorson Family — about 1925.



Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Halvorson's 50th. Wedding Anniversary, 1961. Back — Arthur, Florence, Howard, Clifford, Alice and Gordon. Front — Mr. and Mrs. Halvorson.

market, but the Model T was his favorite and Andrew and his truck became somewhat of an institution.

Card playing was a widespread and popular form of entertainment, and the Halvorsons were experts, especially at Norwegian Whist. Frank T. Dallaire recalls many enjoyable evenings. Once when Lydia was away in Saskatchewan visiting, Frank, Ed Smith and the Andersen boys from Marianne helped Andrew pass the time by playing cards far into the night. Around midnight everyone became hungry so they made pancakes — and what pancakes they were! Mixed with cream, fried in butter and well topped with syrup; no wonder in later years both Andrew and Frank had a weight problem.

In 1961 Mr. and Mrs. Halvorson celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary. Their wedding attendants of 50 years ago were able to be with them, along with all the family.

Andrew died in 1962 and is laid to rest in the Sylvan Lake Cemetery. Lydia remained on the farm until she and Gordon retired to Sylvan Lake November 15, 1973.

The family consists of two daughters and four sons. **Alice**, born 1912, married Carl Engman of Burnt Lake. **Florence**, born 1913, married Matt Sauer in 1932 and they made their home in Athabasca. They have three daughters. Marjorie, Mrs. Paul Chosjempa; Ethel, Mrs. Harold Kondro and Edith, Mrs. Julius Kotona. Andrew and Lydia's oldest son **Gordon**, born 1916, bought the NE 8-38-1-5 from Rev. Hjortaas who lived at Sylvan Lake. Gordon farmed for many years, played hockey and now (1976) is retired in Sylvan Lake. **Howard**, born 1918, married Aneta Hagerman and farms in Burnt Lake. **Arthur**, born 1924, married Grace Fenwick and lives in Sylvan Lake. **Clifford**, born 1928, married Daisy Fenwick. They live on the home farm.

HOWARD HALVORSON

Howard moved to Sylvan Lake with his parents in 1919 from Strongfield, Saskatchewan where he was born a year earlier. He occupied a granary with his parents Andrew and Lydia, two sisters and a brother. They moved into their new home the same year on NW 9-38-1-5. He attended Burnt Lake school while helping on the farm. At an early age, Howard and his older brother

Gordon cut logs from the unbroken land and sold, for \$1.00, all the logs the horses could pull on a sleigh in winter.

From 1939 to 1942 he worked for Fred Johnson of the Pine Hill district. Bell Brothers hired him from 1943 to 1944 hauling milk and general trucking. Saving diligently, he was able to buy his own truck, a 1936 Ford in 1945, and went into the general trucking business. He became a gravel trucker full time in 1951. Since his first truck in 1945, he has had eight, the last a 1975 tandem Chevrolet.

In 1955 he married the former Aneta Hagerman and they became trailer gypsies for three years, when trailers were trailers, not mobile homes. They purchased a new home in Red Deer in 1958 where they moved in with two children, Connie and Glenn. Jennifer arrived a year later.

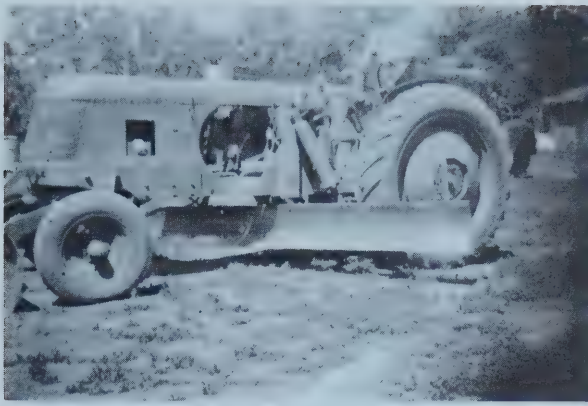
In 1966 they sold in Red Deer and in January of 1967 financed the quarter, SW 9-38-1-5, and began farming "as a busy pastime." The children attended school at Sylvan Lake and had to adjust to the art of farming, such as trying to be in the right place while chasing stock. They found you had to fluff straw to bed cattle, a process not entirely necessary for pigs. **Connie** started a career of telephone operating but gave this up soon after to marry Brett Matson and took up residence in Yellowknife, N.W.T. where Brett has learned the trade of plumbing. Howard and Aneta are also proud grandparents of Charmaine, two, and Dallas, three. **Glenn** who has followed his father's footsteps, purchased his first truck in 1976 and is hauling gravel after a two year career as partsman. **Jennifer** has completed her grade 11 and is employed for the summer of 1976 at the hospital in Yellowknife as a dietary assistant.

We are proud to have been part of the Burnt Lake district but have not contributed very much to the progress; being divided in occupations of trucking and farming. We are masters of neither.

ARTHUR AND GRACE HALVORSON

Arthur Halvorson, third son of Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Halvorson, was born at Red Deer, August 1, 1924. He was raised and went to school at Burnt Lake. Both the Halvorson and Carl Johanson children drove a horse with cutter or buggy to school and Arthur remembers many a merry race on the way home. Arthur played hockey with the Burnt Lake boys and also in the combination Sylvan Lake-Burnt Lake team, playing left wing and centre. As a young man Arthur worked for ten years in the summertime as carpenter with Art Reynolds, and the winters were spent in lumber camps in the Rocky Mountain House area.

Arthur and Grace Fenwick were married February 8, 1955. Grace was the oldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Fenwick of Sylvan Lake. She was born January 27, 1935 in Bright Sands, Saskatchewan. The family moved to Winfield, Alberta in 1941 and to Sylvan Lake in 1946. Grace took her schooling at Winfield and Sylvan Lake. She and Arthur made their home in Burnt Lake on NE 8-38-1-5 until February 1963 when they moved to Sylvan Lake. While at Burnt Lake, Grace took part in community affairs being secretary-treasurer of the Burnt Lake W.I. for six years. At Sylvan Lake she has been a member for 10 years of the Home Craft Club, specializing in a variety of crafts, and also for ten years a member



Arthur Halvorson on maintainer 1947-48.

of the Foster Parents Association, and is active in the Pentecostal church.

Arthur started to work on a regular basis for the M.D. of Red Deer in 1956 driving a "cat" and bucket building roads. In 1957 he became motor grader operator maintaining roads and has continued in this capacity with the County of Red Deer until the present time, 1977 — 20 years of service. Arthur remembers his first work on the road in 1939-40, when he drove a John Deere steel wheeled tractor pulling a three bladed drag similar to one that had been used on horse drawn blades. The blades lasted a long time as it was all dirt roads, no gravel to wear them out. The first gravel was on the three miles straight south of Sylvan Lake about 1940-41. The next step was a rubber tired combination bulldozer and blade, all hydraulic controlled but without a cab. Arthur says, "When it rained, I got wet." An improvement came in 1957 when he had a "cat" 212 to drive. It had a blade but no plow for snow. In 1963 the County bought a new caterpillar No. 12, which was much more powerful and was a great improvement, and which is still in use today. It has blades and plows for snow, so is a year around vehicle. It is also equipped with a mobile radio so Arthur can always keep in touch with the county shop and garage at Innisfail.

From Arthur's vantage seat on the road maintainer, he has had a continuous grandstand view of the changing country. He says it is almost impossible to believe what has taken place from dirt roads and small tractor machines to the sophisticated road building equipment of today. He is familiar with every curve, dip and knoll in the district in which he operates.

Grace and Arthur had a family of six, **Douglas**, born January 9, 1956 at present is working on an oil rig. **Vernon** born May 27, 1958 is at home. **Audrey** born May 9, 1961 lived only three days. **Andrew** born April 27, 1962 is in grade 9. **Shirley** born September 20, 1966 is in grade 3 and **Shelley** born April 7, 1969 is in grade 2. They attend Sylvan Meadows Academy at Sylvan Lake.

CLIFFORD AND DAISY HALVORSON

Clifford, Daisy and family are living on the quarter section, NW 9-38-1-5. This was the family home of Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Halvorson who moved into the Burnt Lake district from Strongfield, Saskatchewan in 1919. Clifford Norman was born in 1928 in Red Deer and grew

up in this community. He attended school at Burnt Lake, and was a beginner there in 1934 when the present building was brand new. There were different modes of transportation to and from school. He recalls Topsy the horse, and a cutter which was weatherized with a covered chassis. It had an old Ford car windshield in front, and a hole under the window for the reins to come through. One time his sister Alice and Carl Engman picked Clifford up at school, and left his brother Arthur to drive the horse and cutter. Analise Ammeter got rides, but that night, to her amazement they whisked right past her gate and proceeded on to the Halvorson farm, where the horse was caught after jumping a fence. When they were rescued she said, "Art wouldn't stop to let me off at our gate," not realizing it was a run-away.

Clifford remembers the dances at Burnt Lake school in the early days when they went with horse and sleigh. Straw was put in the bottom of the box and rocks, which were heated in the oven ahead of time, were used to keep warm, with a cover over of blankets. The Halvorsons supplied the music for these social events, along with the Len Hackers and Dwight Sawyers. Clifford himself was quite adept with the guitar and piano.

As a young man Clifford was on a threshing crew. In 1940 he worked for Frank Dallaire at Andy Niemczyk's. It was during the war and help was hard to get so no field pitchers were hired. He remembers going with a rack and team of horses, working from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. for \$2.00 a day. The tractor, "a Rumely", which was used to power the threshing machine is still in existence. The antique is owned by Ray Ferguson in Sylvan Lake. Clifford was fascinated with its oiling mechanism and remembers it ran on coal oil, distillate or gas, which was bought in barrels.

Clifford and his three brothers were on the Burnt Lake hockey team. Clifford played defense position from 1940 to 1954 or '55. He wore number 3 on his sweater for 18 years. This team won many trophies and held the cup for quite a few years. A fan just recently commented to Clifford that the games held between Burnt Lake and Sylvan Lake, Nordegg or Red Deer were the best hockey games he'd ever seen. Clifford still enjoys hockey and has been playing on the Sylvan Lake Old Timers team for about three years.

Daisy Margaret Fenwick was born in 1936 at Loon Lake, Saskatchewan. Her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Albert Fenwick were farming there. The family moved to Winfield when Daisy was five years old. She received her schooling in Winfield and Sylvan Lake, to which the family had moved in 1946. She has four brothers and one sister, Grace, who married Clifford's brother Arthur. Daisy was employed in various jobs before her marriage; the Provincial Training School, Red Deer; the Three-Way Convalescent Hospital, Rimbey; at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Fairbourne, Burnt Lake, where Mrs. Fairbourne taught school. She met Clifford when employed as a "hat check" girl at the Prom Hall, Sylvan Lake.

In their courting days, one Friday evening, they were on their way to Red Deer to a movie. Daisy was driving, and when they were going through north Red Deer, about 30 m.p.h. the car hit some loose gravel and went into a ditch full of water. This was in November, 1955. There was a coating of two inch thick ice covering it, and



Clifford Halvorson and his prize catch — around 1950.

because of this it was impossible to open the door to get out. Clifford pushed Daisy out through the window, but he couldn't get through. Daisy stood in the water to hold Clifford's head above the water. Some close-by residents heard the crash and came to investigate. They had to break the ice to open the car door to rescue Clifford. Both suffered from exposure and exhaustion.

Clifford and Daisy were married March 13, 1956 at the Lutheran Church, Rimbey. This was Cliff's father's 70th birthday. The teacherage from Burnt Lake was moved to the farm. They built an addition and renovated, and this was their home for 12 years. Clifford's father passed away in 1962, and, when his mother moved into Sylvan Lake in the fall of 1973, the family moved into the larger home.

Clifford and Daisy had a mixed farming operation. They raised grain and had chickens, hogs and cattle. Besides this, Clifford worked at construction and water well drilling. The farm has now been rented out since 1974. Daisy is employed at the Sylvan Lake Lodge and in 1976 became matron. Clifford enjoys fishing and is an avid curler; both he and Daisy have been active in the Sylvan Lake Curling and Arena Club, where their family also enjoys participating. Daisy has been a member of the Burnt Lake W.I. and her baking entries in the organization's competitions have been rewarding.

The Halvorsons have five children and one grandchild. The three youngest of the family are still attending school at Sylvan Lake. **June**, born in 1965 is in grade six, **Raymond**, born in 1963 is in grade nine, **Gary**,



Clifford Halvorson Family — 1970. Clifford, Donald, Debra, Daisy, Raymond, June and Gary.

born in 1960, finished his grade 12 in January, 1977. **Donald**, born in 1958 graduated in 1976 and is employed at an electrical shop, "House of Lights", in Red Deer. **Deborah**, born in 1957, married **James Bakker**. The Baakers lived for a time in Vernon, British Columbia, and in May, 1976 they came to this area. They moved in a trailer close to the site of the original home of Deb's parents. They have a daughter, Kari Lynn.

Jim is from Haarlem, Holland, where his parents Nicolaas and Jannigje Bakker, two sisters and one brother live. He has one brother in Australia. Previous to moving to Vernon, he was employed at Bourk's Men's Shops, Ltd., Red Deer. In Vernon he was a car salesman, and now back in Red Deer, he is again employed at Bourk's Men's Shops.

THE BILL HAMILL FAMILY

William Gavin Hamill was born December 3, 1930 in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. His father's parents came from Ireland and his mother's parents from Germany. Bill's grandfather William Neusch (his mother's father) came over from Germany with his parents as a youth and settled in Minnesota, U.S.A. In 1902 he moved to Saskatchewan and farmed four miles north of Saskatoon. Bill has fond memories of going out to his grandparent's place. Bill grew up in Saskatoon where he attended elementary and high school. He loved sports and was active in football, hockey, softball, soccer and basketball.

I, Margaret Patricia Hamill (nee Pat Oliver) was born February 27, 1935 in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. My father is from Dumfries, Scotland and my mother was from Londonderry, Ireland. I was raised on a farm in the Floral district, 12 miles out of Saskatoon. There were four children in our family. We attended a one room country school with eight grades. We travelled to school in a little two-wheeled cart drawn by an old horse we called Daisy. In winter we walked or were taken in a

cutter. I attended high school, grades 9 to 12, and Teacher's College in Saskatoon. My first school was at Meacham, Saskatchewan.

I shall never forget the winter of 1947-48 as we had a record amount of snow. The banks were so high our garage was covered. We had to dig a tunnel for the cows to get to the water trough. Bill's uncle, an engineer on the C.N.R. recalls driving through banks as high as the train.

Bill and I met in the fall of 1954. Since my mother's death, my sisters, brother and I were responsible for the household chores. When Bill came out to the farm to take me out for the evening, he often had to dry dishes or help get the clothes off the line before we could leave. He had the chance of tasting my cooking and seeing me at my worst before we married. Bill and I were married August 9, 1957 and lived in Saskatoon until 1961, at which time we moved to Red Deer for one year. We then moved back to Saskatoon.

We liked Alberta very much and decided we'd like to live near Red Deer. In order to help make this dream come true, we rented a three storey house in Saskatoon and took in boarders. I won't take time or space to relate all the experiences we had in that venture, but I soon found out that seven working men can consume a lot of food.

We moved to Pine Lake, Alberta in the fall of 1964 and rented a small resort on the north east end. In 1966 we bought a quarter section in the Burnt Lake district from Joe Vischer, namely the NE 22-38-1-5. We have found Burnt Lake a very warm and friendly community and have certainly been happy that we moved here.

We have four children. **Sharon Patricia** was born September 20, 1958 in Saskatoon. Sharon attended Concordia Lutheran High School in Edmonton. She graduated from grade twelve in May 30, 1976. She enjoys music and plans to go to University. **Betty Jean** was born January 1, 1960 (the New Year's baby for Saskatoon). Betty is active in sports, music and drama. **Robert William** was born May 27, 1962 (born in Red Deer, the only true Albertan). Rob likes sports, especially ball and hockey. His hobbies are sketching and painting. **Linda Maureen** was born March 24, 1964 in Saskatoon. Lin-



Bill Hamill Family — 1975. Back — Pat, Rob and Bill. Front — Sharon, Linda and Betty.

da is active in Guides, sports, music and drama. Bill works for the C.N.R. He still enjoys playing hockey and ball. I teach a grade two class at Sylvan Lake School. I enjoy teaching Sunday School, working with the Junior Choir and singing in the Senior Choir.

JOE HAMILTON FAMILY

April, 1973, saw the beginning of a dream come true for the Joe Hamilton family — a small farm on the SE 12-38-1-5. Joe was born and raised on a farm in the Dovercourt district and Marie was raised in Red Deer. Their children are eight year old **Lynette** and six year old **Lorne**.

The countless and much appreciated help from all their new neighbors welcomed the Hamiltons into the Burnt Lake district. Holding a city job as a meat butcher and trying to start a small scale cattle herd was a challenge. During those first two springs Marie received her first experience in country living including a quick introduction into animal midwifery.

After three years of mobile home living, the first permanent home in decades for this quarter was started.

The rural life, chosen for raising their own children, also gave Joe and Marie their opportunity to work with underprivileged children with the foster home program.

GUS HAMMERBECK

Gus Hammerbeck, a carpenter by trade, came from Sweden to Canada in the early days. It is thought he did not come directly to this area, but by about 1913 the family were living on the NW 16-38-1-5. It was only a short distance across the fields to John Halversons and the two wives became firm friends. Now Mrs. Hammerbeck had to cross the sheep pasture to reach the Halverson house. Mrs. Halverson warned her repeatedly that the ram could not be trusted, to watch out for him. But Mrs. Hammerbeck, only pooh-hooed the idea. She had found the ram, quiet and docile. One day, while hurrying across the field, minding her own business, she felt this terrific bunt from behind, and landed in the dust, hat awry and handbag flung aside. Her former tolerance was quickly replaced by injured dignity and righteous indignation; "That animal is dangerous, you should keep him tied up," she scolded.

Mr. Halverson also encountered the ram's fickleness. One day while John was preparing to mend fences, with a pail of staples in one hand, tools in the other, the ram saw his chance, and sent his owner sprawling, staples scattered far and wide. Mr. Halverson was not easily ruffled, but this time he eyed the ram, with the remark, "Now either you got to leave this farm, or I will."

The Hammerbecks, at one time, lived on the SW 12-38-1-5, and the house there was one of several Gus built in the district.

Their sojourn in Alberta lasted only a few years, as they left about 1914 for Lyford, Texas, U.S.A. Of the three sons and one daughter, the oldest son, **Victor**, died June 10, 1966 at New Westminster, British Columbia, and **Albert** died November 25, 1970 at Cisco, Texas. **William** and his family live in San Bruno, California, and **Ella** (Mrs. Sallas) in Houston, Texas. Her husband, who died in 1959, was on the Houston, Texas police force.

EDWARD AND JUNE HAMSON

Edward Hamson was born in Innisfail, Alberta on February 4, 1935, son of Harold and Madge Hamson, both of whom passed away some years ago. Edward lived in Calgary and in Vancouver until six years old, when he moved to the Burnt Lake district and attended school here, also attending school at Pine Hill for one year.

June, the daughter of Roy and Martha Scott of Penhold, Alberta, was born in Red Deer on June 22, 1936. She went to school in Ridgewood and later Westholm (north of Innisfail).

Eddie and June were married October 4, 1958 and have lived on their farm in the Burnt Lake district ever since. The land, SE 35-37-1-5 was previously owned by the Haak brothers (Eddie's uncles). Eddie and June have two children, **Shannon**, born September 20, 1959, is now living and working in Red Deer and **Dwayne**, born February 4, 1961, is going to high school in Red Deer.

June says, "Our type of farming is mixed and we enjoy it very much. Eddie also works out a lot on construction, lease road work and pipelines. We have several hobbies, as a family, which includes skating, our horses, snowmobiling, curling, music and skiing. We also have many fine neighbors and friends."

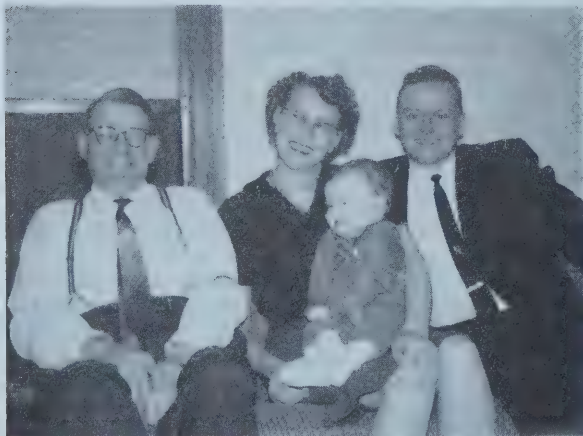
ROBERT AND HILJA HANSON

Robert and Hilja Hanson moved into the Burnt Lake district in 1966, after coming west from Winnipeg in 1962. They purchased the Joe Mannix acreage in 1969. The nearest neighbor was Bernart and Olga Arlint. In 1971 they purchased, from Tauna Hakala, an acreage on SE 16-38-1-5 and built a new home where they resided until Robert Hanson passed away on November 7, 1973.

Robert Hanson was raised in Deloraine, Manitoba and received his schooling there. He was a veteran of the First World War and was overseas for three years. He retired in 1960 after 45 years service with the C.N. Railways. He has two brothers and two sisters.

Hilja Hanson, nee Kissimer, was born and raised on a farm in Scotch Bay, Manitoba, near Lake Manitoba. She has two brothers and two sisters.

Robert and Hilja Hanson have one son, **Arvie Edward**, and four grandchildren, residing in Winnipeg. Their son is a mortgage manager in charge of all mortgage and real estate for the Monarch Life, and also



Bob and Helja Hanson, son Arvi, and grandson Clayton — 1964.

accredited appraiser with the Canadian Appraisal Institute.

Hilja Hanson married Orla E. Neilsen on December 19, 1975, and is now living in Benalto, Alberta.

HOWARD AND MARGARET HAWN

The Howard Hawn family moved into Central Alberta from the Bassano area and lived for a time in Innisfail, Penhold and Sylvan Lake. The family, consisting of five children, **Carol, Laurie, Connie, Patsy, and Tommy**, lived in the Burnt Lake district from about 1971-73.

Having bought a few undeveloped acres along the C.P.R. railroad track on the SW 26-38-1-5, they improved the site, and brought in a house trailer. While in Burnt Lake they raised and sold canaries, budgies, and other birds.

Leaving the Burnt Lake district for British Columbia, the Hawns are presently living in Malakwa, a logging town, where Howard owns his own drywalling and carpentry business.

ROBERT HAY

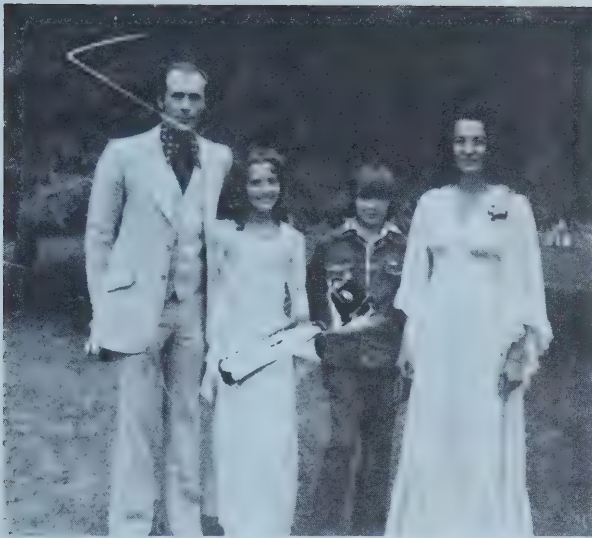
Robert and Margarite Hay and family moved to an acreage on the south end of the Burnt Lake district in July 1974. This quarter, SE 27-37-1-5, was purchased by Ted Moore from R. L. Frisch and the building site was sub-divided and bought by the Hays. They came from Kamloops, British Columbia, where their parents lived, and while living in this area Robert worked at Canada Packers plant in Red Deer. They had two children, a girl, **Laura**, five, and a boy, **Shane**, three. They sold the acreage in 1975 to the Robert Ramsey family and moved back to British Columbia.

HENDERSON

A family by the name of Henderson lived for a time in the very early years on the SW 14-38-1-5. A son and daughter attended Swan Lake school, but even their names escape memory. It is remembered that they held an auction sale before they moved away. Auction sales in those days were a rarity, so no doubt it created wide interest.

HERDER FAMILY HISTORY

Robert W. (Bob) Herder, son of Lewis and Sarah Herder, was born February 2, 1936 in Red Deer. He lived there for a number of years where his father had a gravel pit and a sand and gravel trucking business. In 1946 the family moved to the Balmoral district where they lived for four years. His father then purchased land from John Kessel, just on the edge of Sylvan Lake, NE 33-38-1-5, known as the Henry Jamoye place. The family resided there from 1950 until 1963. Bob attended schools in Red Deer, Balmoral and finished his education at Sylvan Lake. Bob's parents and his brother Charlie built the Balmoral Golf Course near Red Deer. It is of interest to note that the Alto Rest Cemetery Gardens are situated on a subdivided lot of Herder's property. They operated under the name of L. E. Herder and Sons until his father's passing in 1965. On Christmas Eve a fire broke out in their trailer home and Lewis Herder died of a heart attack as a result of fighting the fire. Lewis Herder was born in 1903 at Solgurth, Manitoba and in his younger days had been a light-weight boxer, and had several public matches in the U.S.A. and Canada. He enjoyed



Bob Herder Family — 1976. Bob, Kim, Jim, Judy.

singing, and was a member of the Barber Shop Quartet of Red Deer and was great on playing the harmonica and accordion.

Bob's mother (nee Sarah Thompson) was born in Glengarry County, Lancaster, Ontario and came west with her parents in 1904. She was one of the first operators on the telephone exchange in Red Deer, working there from 1920-30. At that time the exchange office was owned by W. A. Moore, before it became the property of the Alberta Government.

Bob and Judy were married in 1963. Judy is the only daughter of Ruby and Al Parker, formerly from Lethbridge. Judy was born August 2, 1944 in High River. Bob and Judy have two children, **Jim** 12 and **Kim** 10.

In his teen-age years, Bob had "come upon" a piece of land which intrigued him very much. It was situated on NW 22-38-1-5, on the top of a hill overlooking both Sylvan Lake and Burnt Lake. On returning home he told his dad about it. His father agreed that this was indeed a lovely spot, never realizing that sometime in the near future his son's dream would come true. Bob purchased the property from John Martin in 1965.

The Herder family had owned property near Sylvan Lake for 15 years. Bob farmed in partnership with his brother Charles (Charlie), both having equal interest in the farm and Balmoral Golf Course under the name of Herder Bros., for a number of years and then the two separated to run their own individual businesses in the late '60's. The Sylvan Lake property was sold for development in 1975 and the family moved to the new location on top of the hill. As there weren't any buildings on the site, the house, barn and corrals were all put up new, making a busy season.

This land was originally homesteaded by Camille Armeneau in 1906. Years later it was owned by Mr. Nels Soderberg who started a building site but this never did materialize because of the 1929 crash. It was then sold to a Mr. Hoey from Rice Lake, Wisconsin, U.S.A. who was president of Rice Lake Paper Mill. He came up to this area and bought land throughout the country. He chose land with a good stand of poplar trees in hopes of ex-

porting pulp to his mill in the U.S.A. He didn't live on the property and it was rented by Carl Johanson for a number of years. It was then bought by John Martin Sr., Sylvan Lake, a former pioneer of the Ridgewood district.

Bob is an avid cattleman. He notes that in 1973 when he sold cattle at the Lacombe Auction Mart, some of his steers brought the highest price for the day, 66¢. In 1975 he got as low as 13¢. Bob enjoys fishing and from 1965 until 1971 he participated in Pony Chuckwagon racing setting a record at Red Deer Spring Horse Show. He has served on the Sylvan Lake Arena Board and the Recreation Board. Judy is known throughout the community for her singing abilities. The Bob Herders hope to live in the Burnt Lake community for many years.

GILBERT HERMARY FAMILY

Gilbert Henri Hermary was born in France on February 6, 1898, and moved to Canada with his parents, two brothers and one sister. They settled in Innisfail in 1906 where they operated a brick yard. In 1910 the family moved to Red Deer. In 1916 Gilbert went to Rome to study for the priesthood, but, due to poor health, had to return home in 1918 and join his family farming.

Shortly after, he met Madeliene Pevert who also came from France with her parents to reside at Big Valley, and who was attending St. Joseph Convent school. On April 14, 1925 they were married in St. Joseph Convent Chapel of Sacred Heart Parish by Father J. R. McDonald.

In 1926, while Gilbert was working for W. E. Lord, their first son **John** was born. He now lives in Edmonton. Then in 1927 their second son **Bernard** was born. He now lives in Red Deer. In 1928 Gilbert and Madeliene along with their two sons moved to the Burnt Lake district, taking up residence on the farm formerly occupied by **Charlie Medearis**, S.E. 1-38-1-5.

The memories of the years spent on the farm are many and varied, such as the trips to town once a month for flour, sugar and coal. Many things were substituted, like roasting barley for coffee, and grinding wheat for porridge. One winter was so cold the cattle froze standing in the feed lot. Then, there were the good memories of picnics at Sylvan Lake with family and friends on Sundays after attending church.

In 1931 **Dan McIntyre** came to work for room and board and has been with the family ever since. In 1936 Gilbert took in Madeliene's brother, **Rene Pevert**, on the same terms.

With the help of neighbors like the Pearsons, Swainsons, Johnsons and Lewises, the family managed to struggle through the thirties.

In 1939 Gilbert went to work as a cook at the Penhold Air Base. While on the farm, their family increased by **Marie** of Red Deer, **Margurete** of Vancouver, British Columbia, **Robert** of Red Deer, **Maurice** of Surrey, British Columbia, **Agness** whom they lost as a babe, **Bernadette** of Fort McMurray, **Paul** of Clive, **Andre** of Sherwood Park, **Gilberta** of Fort McMurray, **Michael** of Edmonton, and the twins, **Juliette** of Stoney Plain and **Julian**, deceased.

In 1942 the family moved to a farm in Red Deer. Madeliene passed away at the age of 62 years in 1967, and Gilbert at the age of 78 years in 1976.



Ruby and Bill Horne's Wedding — 1962. L. to R. — Carl Pearson, Ruth Pearson, Bill and Ruby Horne.

BILL AND RUBY HORNE

Bill Horne moved into the district in April 1960 when he purchased the NE 25-37-1-5, "the turkey farm" from Roy Swainson. Bill was born at Wetaskiwin and raised in Red Deer. His father James emigrated from Scotland in 1900 homesteading in Saskatchewan, then because of the dry conditions moved to the Wetaskiwin area five years later. Here James met and married Margaret LaRoque, who was born and raised on a homestead near Wetaskiwin. A few years later they moved to Red Deer where Bill's father was employed at the Old Indian Industrial School in Shady Nook. At this time the immigrants from the Hebridean Islands were billeted on the farm until they could be placed on land of their own.

In 1926 James contracted typhoid fever which was fatal. There were five children, Roy, Margaret, Bill, Harold and Grace. Later Bill's mother married Ernest Brown. They had two boys Barry and Douglas.

Bill served overseas for five years seeing action in Italy and Holland. In December 1962 he married Ruby Thomas (nee Pearson) and moved to SW 7-38-28-4. Ruby had two children, **Donna** and **Dale**, twins, born in 1944 by her previous marriage.

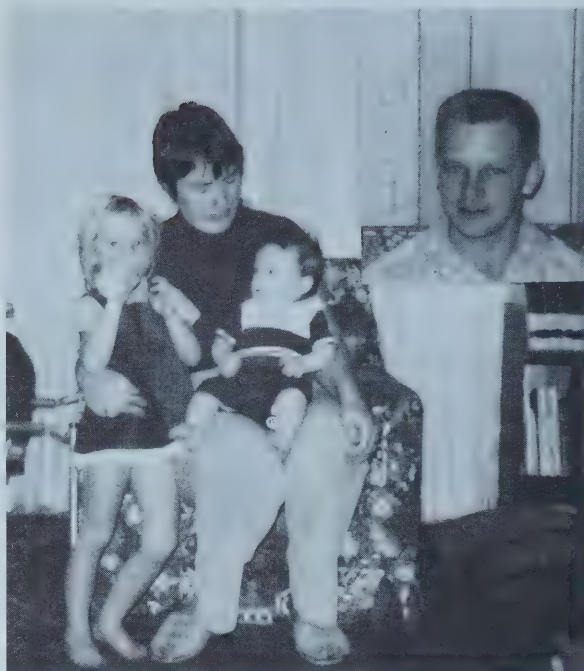
DALE THOMAS was married to Lorna Cull of Red Deer in 1966. They live in Red Deer and have two children, **Christine** and **Stephan**. Dale is a mechanic employed by the Department of Transport.

DONNA THOMAS was married in 1962 to Victor Adams. They have four boys **Troy**, **Sam**, **Shawn** and **Bradley**. After living in Calgary for several years, they returned to Red Deer and live on the "Middle Age Spread", SW 7-38-28-4. Victor is employed by Triple Oak Equipment in Red Deer. The boys all go to River Glen School.

PETER ILCISIN

Peter Ilcisin bought his farm, E½ 9-38-1-5, in the fall of 1939 and moved in April, 1940.

He had a wife and five children still in Czechoslovakia so for the next eight years, he worked very hard clearing and breaking the land to be able eventually to bring his family to this land. Times were hard



Dale Thomas Family — 1975. Lorna with Christine and Stephan. Inset — Dale.



Vic Adams Family — 1972. Victor holding Bradley. L. to R. — Sam, Troy, Shawn and Donna.

and being alone didn't help. There was a time during World War II when the family lost touch, but through the Red Cross, they were finally able to be reunited via mail.

After many years of working alone, Pete was finally able to bring his wife Ann, two sons, **Nick** and **John**, and two daughters, **Helen** and **Anna** to the farm in Burnt Lake. One daughter, **Mary**, remains in Legnava, Czechoslovakia where she married and has her family of two boys.

After coming to Canada Nick began carpentering, a trade he had learned in the old country. He worked in Red Deer for many years before buying a farm in the Norma district. He married Joyce Cody of the Willowdale district and they have four children, Marilyn (Mrs. Tim Bradley), Marion, Michael and Helen still at home.

John went to school at Burnt Lake after coming to Canada. He did very well at school, completing eight grades in one year. English was of course the big problem. He then went to high school in Red Deer boarding at the "Dorm", then on to S.A.I.T. where he became a radio operator. He spent about three years in the far north working for the government. He now lives in Edmonton with his wife Theresa and three children, Kevin, Karen and Kenneth, all attending school there.

Helen went to Ponoka and met and married Steve Yurecko of New Jersey, U.S.A. They had two children, Anna (Mrs. Carl Stecker) and Stephen at home. Steve passed away in 1972. Helen continues to live in New Jersey. Anna worked in the Peacock Inn in Red Deer for a number of years. There she met and married Martin Saitz. They lived in a number of places as Martin was an oil well worker. Later they moved to Vernon, British Columbia where Martin operated his own business. Martin died in a tragic accident in his own body shop in December, 1962 leaving Ann to raise their three small children, Gary, Kieth and Mary Ann. They have all graduated from high school now and are working in British Columbia. Ann is still in Vernon.

Over the years the Ilcins have enjoyed many good times together, their family and their church being most important to Grampa and Gramma. They celebrated their 50th anniversary the summer of 1970 at the home of their son and daughter-in-law, Nick and Joyce, with 130 friends and neighbors and relatives being present at the open house.

Gramma passed away September 5, 1976 after suffering from arthritis for years. Grampa enjoys good health. He lives alone again, but plants a big garden every year. He still enjoys spending time in the field although Nick now rents the land.

RUDOLPH JENNE

Rudolf A. Jenne was born in Achen, Baden, Germany and became an horticulturist by trade. Wanting a farm was his dream from the time he was 14 years old. He immigrated to Canada in 1952 to find this farm. Rudolf worked and saved for many a year; bought the acreage which was named "The Broken Quarter" (the J. Sveinson homestead) on NW 36-37-1-5.

But this dream was short lived — from 1970-1974. After he found out how well he liked farming and what a healthy life it was, the acreage got too small for him and

he started looking for something a little bigger. He found it in the Wembley area, County of Grande Prairie.

Now he did not accomplish this dream on his own. His wife, Ingrid, born in Czechoslovakia (sorry he is not allowed to say when) has worked in nursing many a year to make his dream come true. They are at present farming three quarters and hope to get a bit more land as soon as their son **Andy**, born in 1960 in Calgary, is big enough to farm. Right now he is most interested in the field of agriculture and hopefully he does not change his mind.

They left Red Deer with mixed feelings, leaving behind their good friends and kind neighbors in the community of Burnt Lake.

SIGGEIR JOHANNSON

A very early settler in the Burnt Lake district, Siggeir Johannson, came from Iceland with his parents and four brothers. He homesteaded the SW 4-38-1-5 in 1889 and with his wife remained there until 1898, when he cancelled those homestead rights and took up land near Markerville where some other members of his family were located. While in Burnt Lake, a son Peter was born; a second son arrived on the new Markerville farm.

CARL J. JOHANSON AND FAMILY

Carl was born on December 14, 1899 in Sweden in the small village of Imnas. Farms were small and the opportunities for a young man were scarce so in the spring of 1924 he emigrated to Canada. He arrived the 1st of June in the Burnt Lake area and for awhile worked for Frank Dallaire in the bush and later for Mr. and Mrs. Peter Olson. It was while he was here he met his future wife, Julia (nee Olson).

Carl and Julia were married on December 14, 1925, which was also Carl's birthday, and they moved to the SW 22-38-1-5, a quarter Carl had purchased from Knoepflis. Later they bought the NW 15-38-1-5. The family remembers that this quarter was purchased for \$1100.00. The sum of 50¢ from each can of cream was set aside to help pay for this land. There was only 50 acres broken on this land and Carl cleared the remaining, grubbing the huge balsam trees out by hand. A grub hoe is a double tool, one part for grubbing the soil away from the roots and the other like an axe, to cut the roots. In the summer of 1928, Carl took on a contract to dig a ditch through the muskeg south of his farm so that a road could be built. He did this all by hand using a broad axe. In later years they acquired the former Olson property and in 1951 bought the remaining 40 acres of SE 10-38-1-5 from Bjelkes.

In 1947 a new house was built and the following year, a new barn was built. Their building site was on a hill overlooking the Burnt Lake district.

The children, four boys and one girl, all attended the Burnt Lake school. They had three miles to travel and drove a horse and cutter or buggy.

In 1949 Carl returned to Sweden to spend Christmas with his brother and four sisters. At that time travel was by ship and it took about seven days to make the trip. He returned in the spring of 1950 and a few years later his health began to fail. Carl died on August 5, 1961 after a lengthy illness. Julia remained on the home farm with her son Dennis, until she sold it and retired to Red Deer. She passed away in Red Deer on October 4, 1974. Both Carl



Carl Johanson Family — mid 1940's. Back — Winston, Hartley, Dennis, Rodney. Front — Carl, Yvonne and Julia.

and Julia were of the Baptist faith and attended church regularly.

The family consists of **C. Rodney**, born in 1926. He is married and has three children, and is living in Calgary. He is in the real estate business. **Dennis** was born in 1928, **Hartley** in 1930 and the twins **Winston** and **Yvonne**, in 1932. Winston is married and lives in Delta, British Columbia. He is presently in the Mortgage business and taking an Accountant course. Yvonne took her nurses' training at Lamont, Alberta. She married Noel Lockhart. They have three children and farm at Strome, Alberta.

DENNIS JOHANSON

Dennis, the second oldest son of Carl and Julia Johanson, was born July 20, 1928. He took all his schooling at Burnt Lake. It is interesting to note that when Dennis and his older brother, Rodney, started school neither could speak English. Their parents spoke Swedish at home.

Dennis started playing hockey with the seniors in Burnt Lake when he was 14 years old. He was the goalie from 1942-1952 and then played again in 1954. When an Old-Timer's team was formed in the '70's, he played again as goalie. After he quit playing hockey, Dennis started curling and was a shareholder in the Sylvan Lake Curling Club. He has won many trophies and prizes.

Dennis farmed with his father and brother Hartley, and in 1953 he bought the SE 21-38-1-5 from Andy Niemczyk, just to the west of the home farm. In 1964 he bought the NW 23-38-1-5 from Frank Lindholm, and in 1966 bought the home farm, NW 15 and SW 22-38-1-5 from his mother. Records show that there never has been a total crop failure on this land, perhaps due to its location between two lakes. Dennis worked hard when there was work to do and played hard when he played.

In December 1972, Dennis sold his land to Paul Butuk from Saskatchewan, and in the spring of 1973 had

a sale. It was one of the largest sales the W.I. ever served lunch at. In July 1973 he bought into the Penholder Inn, a hotel in Penhold, Alberta, and is still part owner.

During the summer of 1974, Dennis and his brother Rodney went to Sweden to visit relatives there and then rented a car and toured several European countries and the British Isles.

In June 1976, Dennis married Pat Fitzpatrick. Pat was born in Coronation, Alberta in 1936 and moved to Calgary in 1945 where she obtained her schooling. Pat has a family of four from her previous marriage, Ed, Jeff, Tracey and Kathy Fitzpatrick.

HARTLEY JOHANSON FAMILY

Hartley, third son of Mr. and Mrs. Carl J. Johanson, was born January 30, 1930, and except for a few years, has lived all his life in the Burnt Lake district attending school at Burnt Lake and Sylvan Lake. As a boy every winter he would trap weasels and skunks, and that meant much tramping through deep snow after school to check his traps. Hartley played hockey with the local team in the '40's and they won many tournaments and trophies defeating neighboring districts. He farmed with his Father and brother, and at the beginning the seeding and harrowing was still done with horses. In 1954 he left the home farm and worked on dairy farms at Red Deer and Balzac and later with a construction company in Calgary.

In 1958 he married Kay Richards whose family had pioneered in the Horn Hill district near Red Deer. Kay graduated from High School in Red Deer and worked as a secretary in Red Deer and Calgary prior to her marriage. The same year they purchased SE 10-38-1-5 and SW 11-38-1-5 from Hartley's father and became residents of the district in 1959.

The only building on the property was the old stopping house, so a house was purchased in Red Deer and moved onto the site, and the stopping house was used as a barn for milk cows. In 1964 a fire destroyed this barn and several calves and the milking equipment was lost. This was quite a loss, but with the help of neighbors and friends a new barn was built and they were back in



Hartley Johanson Family — 1977. Back — Heather, Melvin, Linda and Terry. Front — Kay, Hartley.

production within a month. In 1962 they purchased the SW 15-38-1-5 from Fred Sjoquist, which has a spring fed creek running through it, and half of it is used for pasture for the cattle.

The family consists of four children, **Heather** born in 1959, **Melvin** in 1961, **Linda** in 1963 and **Terence** in 1965. They are all attending school in Sylvan Lake.

Kay has been a member of the Burnt Lake W.I. since moving here, and besides keeping house and raising a family, she has been driving a tractor in spring and a grain truck in the fall for many years. Sometimes, she would have one of the children in a basket on the seat beside her when she was hauling grain from the combine.

The whole family enjoys the outdoors and spend many weekends west of Rocky Mountain House camping and fishing. Hartley has always been an ardent fisherman, and it seems he can drop everything and go fishing if anybody suggests it. The deepfreeze is seldom empty of fish.

A highlight for the family was a trip to Sweden in the summer of 1975. They have numerous relatives over there and so had the opportunity to learn about the country and their life style which they found wasn't much different from ours, possibly at a slower pace. The children really enjoyed themselves while there. They have also had many relatives from Sweden visit them in recent years.

THE ERIC JOHANSON FAMILY — by Oscar Johanson

There were nine Johansson boys (no girls) born to Karin and Johan Johansson. They lived in Ramsele, Angermaland, in the northern part of Sweden. The father died in 1881 at the age of 56 years — the youngest child was only four years old. Tradition speaks of the mother and her boys filling an entire pew each Sunday at the little old church at Ramsele.

In April 1893, four of these boys left Sweden to seek their fortunes in Western Canada. They were **Erik** age 31, married to Anna Dorothea Soderberg of Edsele, Sweden and their small daughter; **Hoka** age 21; **Otto** age 18 and **Ferdinand** age 16 years. The journey took a whole month — three weeks on the water and a week by rail from Halifax to Calgary. Dad (Erik) told us often of how he suffered from sea-sickness. On the same boat, were Mr. and Mrs. Edward Petterson and their little daughter, Signe. The families had known each other in Ramsele, Sweden and travelled together all the way. Mr. Emmanuel Petterson, (later E. P. Cronquist), another Swedish immigrant was on the boat, and also settled in this area. The three families remained good friends throughout their lives.

En route, Hoka and Ferdinand stopped off in Winnipeg, Manitoba, where Hoka worked on the railroad and then moved to Helena, Montana where he met and married Caroline Hendrickson in 1902. Two years later he joined his brother Eric in Burnt Lake where he spent the summer while he worked and decided on a permanent location. After harvest, he and his wife travelled to their homestead in the Minburn area by team and wagon. Ferdinand's stay in Canada was rather brief and his mother was delighted to have him home again! He died in Sweden in April 1902, age 25.



Mr. and Mrs. Hoka Johanson's wedding, 1903.

The Eric Johanssons, Edward Pettersons and Mr. E. P. Cronquist continued their journey to Red Deer, Alberta. According to other records the train from Calgary took approximately seven hours to make the trip to Red Deer and it only went once a week each way. When the train stopped in Red Deer, an Iclander, by the name of Henry Reinholt, who spoke Swedish fluently, greeted them. He persuaded them to disembark and look for land in his area. The only Dominion Land Title Office between Calgary and Edmonton was in Red Deer. The plentiful supply of timber, like that in Sweden, was a valuable asset and attracted them to the Burnt Lake area. Land was available for all and the prospect of near neighbors speaking their own language was most appealing. Eric Johansson filed on the NE 10-38-1-5 and the others filed on adjacent land.

As far as is known, Henry Reinholt arranged transportation for them to their homesteads by team and wagon, fording the Red Deer River at the Old Crossing (known also as the Bannerman Crossing) as there was no steel traffic bridge until 1903. They travelled west on the trail which followed the ridges to their homesteads.

Temporary living quarters had to be established until log houses were built from spruce logs and the roofs were of sod. Fortunately these Swedish people were good axemen.

Dad was a tanner by trade, and on leaving the Old Country, he rented out his tannery for five years. Later it was sold to the renter who found it to be an excellent investment. Mother was a seamstress and this stood her in

good stead in the new country. They lost their little daughter with "summer complaint" at 11 months and she was buried by "certain" trees on the homestead. It was a very difficult time for them and Mother often told the family of the dreadful loneliness and poverty of the pioneers.

Otto lived with the folks, and when hunting for ducks, discovered fish in Burnt Lake on the north half of section 11. Larger quantities of fish were in Sylvan Lake. Although it was only five miles distant, travelling was so difficult and time consuming during that first year our family could not get there. However, Mr. Agren and Dad did manage one trip there together. Rabbits also provided a staple supply of meat.

During homestead days, Dad took our milk to the community skimming station operated by Mr. Andrew Lindholm, at "the spring" on NE 3. From the cream, Mother made butter which was exchanged for groceries in Red Deer, for there was very little cash. Imagine their dismay to find a glut of butter and have to return home with it! They tried using it for axle grease but this wasn't very satisfactory.

Then there were those destructive prairie fires. On one occasion, Dad saw it coming and was able to hastily plough a fireguard and start a back fire, thus successfully saving his haystack on the south end of Burnt Lake (sec. 11). His was the only stack saved that time. On a later occasion, when we had acquired the east half of section 1, and Dad had laboriously fenced it with spruce rails, we were not as fortunate. The fence was no sooner finished than another fire swept across the country completely destroying the fence. I well remember the fire guard that Dad kept black using a disc harrow. It was about 20 feet wide around the buildings.

Mr. Edward Petterson and Dad each took a horse and travelled by team and wagon to Edmonton to pan gold in the North Saskatchewan River. They did very well, obtaining the equivalent of \$2.00 a day each, but due to heavy rains, the river rose and they had to discontinue their efforts. On the way home, Mr. Petterson's horse disappeared, presumably it was stolen, they therefore had to tie up the wagon pole to the other little mare and she bravely brought their gear home alone.

Another time Dad went to Golden, British Columbia where he worked in a logging camp for three months. He earned \$100.00 with which he hoped to buy some livestock. Coming home he tipped the conductor \$1.00 periodically instead of paying full fare. Travelling north from Calgary, the new conductor became quite irritated with this practice so Dad got off the train at Innisfail and walked home across country!

Many of the settlers had difficulty over names. Otto and Dad soon dropped an "S" from Johansson. When Hoka went to Minburn, folks there insisted on leaving out the "A" so he changed to Johnson.

Clearing and breaking land was a slow, arduous task — the heavily wooded quarter wasn't such an advantage after all, for after nine years, only nine acres were broken.

In 1902 the homestead was sold to E. P. Cronquist. Payment for the farm included an oak rocking chair which is still in use. We moved to the E ½ 1-38-1-5 where Dad built a more adequate house and barn.

Our first oxen were bought from Mr. Carl Asplund and were used for clearing and breaking until 1910, when they were sold to E. P. Cronquist. The oxen were used in the morning because they became uncontrollable in the heat and flies of the afternoon. Then horses were used because they were easier to handle.

Illness could be disastrous in pioneer days. Apart from Mrs. C. A. Pearson, who came to the area in 1893, and acted as a mid-wife, there were no medical facilities available until the Red Deer Memorial Hospital was built in 1904 to honor the boys who were lost in the Boer War. By this time also, the clever young Dr. Richard Parsons had opened a practice in Red Deer.

Mother's health was not the best and in 1904 she had the first gallbladder surgery done in the new hospital. It was also a first for Dr. Parsons! Forty years later he was still rehearsing it, step by step, to operating room nurses contrasting it with the "modern" techniques. He also told of how he had stayed up all night studying each move! Mother was in hospital several weeks and during that time, Mr. and Mrs. Gus Bjelke who were recent arrivals, were staying with her brother and family, the Oscar Selstroms. Fortunately, the Bjelkes were able to come and keep house for us. Four years later Mother had further surgery and Ellen, now 14, managed the household by herself. I remember how she'd ride the pony or walk over to Burnt Lake, section 11, where we had nets and get fish for us for dinner. Mother's last surgery was following World War 1 when they again did gallbladder surgery and she was much better from then until her last illness.

During the spring of 1906, Oskar Wesslen and Dad took the train to High River and bought 45 head of horses for \$40 to \$45 each. They were mostly broncos bought from the Bar U Ranch. They also purchased outfits with which to chase them home, planning to raise, break and sell the horses for gain. These were the days of open range with the result that five of the horses were lost, thus reducing their profit substantially.

When I was a boy, Mr. T. B. Millar had a cheese factory at the hamlet of Stockholm. Since we were milking a fair number of cows, we took our milk there en route to school, and going home we'd pick up the whey for the calves. We used two big steel cans, one held 40 gallons and the other about 30. At the factory they had a sort of crane that fastened to the handles and by turning a crank the cans were lifted onto the platform. After school we had to dip the whey out of a tank which was on ground level, and using a pail we handed it to someone on top of the wagon. We spilled a bit and splashed a bit! We had a cloth to cover the can before putting on the lid so we'd still have some whey by the time we arrived home! We only did this for a few years because Dad didn't think the calves developed as well on the whey as on skim milk. We then bought a cream separator and sold the cream, using the skim milk for the calves.

The next venture was buying more hayland, NE 35-37-1-5. Access to this land from section 1 was awkward because of a large slough. However, Dad was able to break 40 acres on the west side and sold it to E. P. Cronquist in 1913.

Just after Christmas of 1910, the family moved to W ½ 6-38-28-4 where there was a frame house about 20' x 24'. By the end of June an addition and veranda were

completed. This was quite often referred to as "the green house."

In the spring of 1911 Mr. Cronquist and Dad bought a tractor together. It was a Guild-Shapely-Muir 30-45. It proved to be much too cumbersome and heavy for the soft ground during the years of 1911-12 and 1913, which were unusually wet. Altogether it proved to be a bad investment, resulting in a severe financial set-back. However, it was used on the threshing machine for a number of years.

During the summer of 1911, Dad was very anxious to see Mr. Cronquist on his way to Red Deer, re the tractor, so he decided to ford at the Bannerman Crossing, thereby shortening the distance by going directly through West Park. The water seemed to be quite high, especially when we got out to about the middle of the river. The water was up to the bottom of the wagon box and we both knew it got much deeper at the other side. Dad looked at me and said, "You're pretty pale, do you think we should turn back?" I thought we'd better. He said later that had he been alone he'd have gone on but thought the wagon box might have floated off with me in it! That is the last time I recall fording the river with Dad.

In 1917, Dad rented the SW and NE ¼'s of 14-38-1-5 from Mr. Jean Depalme. Mr. Depalme had bought it from Berwayers. They were two bachelors who had returned to France. In 1919 Dad bought this land plus the rest of Mr. Depalme's holdings, SE 15 and NW 11.

Before there was a railroad from Red Deer to Rocky Mountain House, freight had to be hauled by horses. One must bear in mind there were no roads, only trails which followed ridges to avoid the muskegs. In 1910, construction started on the Alberta Central Railroad (known as the A.C.R.) to run between Red Deer and Rocky Mountain House.

The following are recollections of a boy who turned 12, July 5, 1911. We hauled square timber for the trestle which was being built just south of the village of Eckville. This necessitated going to Red Deer first. One wagon and team could only haul two timbers at a time for they were about 30' long, cut from fir. We always took two teams and two wagons. The front wheels of the wagon supported one end of the timbers. The reach had to be tied up and the back wheels supported the other end. When winding along the rough trails, the hind end didn't always follow in line with the front, making driving very difficult. We lived west of Red Deer so it took a day to go into town, pick up the load and return home where we stayed overnight. The next day we proceeded west through Sylvan Lake. When we were almost opposite Benalto, we angled northwest to cross the Medicine River bridge at Eckville. We then had to go south 1½ to 2 miles to unload the timber and then ford the river where there was an abandoned railway camp. Here we could feed our horses and bed down for the night. On all trips we had to carry our own food for man and beast.

I well remember one trip when we wakened to pouring rain. We waited awhile but conditions didn't improve so we set out for home. We sat on our respective reach poles because it was the smoothest place, but we got desperately wet. I was so cold, Dad was afraid of me becoming ill so we had a dish of hot soup in Sylvan Lake to fortify us for the last eight miles.

Another occasion that I'll never forget was a trip that I made hauling groceries to Rocky Mountain House on August 23, 1911. I had a two horse team and wagon and Dad had four horses on his load, which was much heavier. There was another neighbor, a Mr. Hammerbeck and his son Albert, each driving a team and wagon. As before, we loaded in Red Deer the day previous to starting west. This time we angled through the Markerville country, then through Stauffer. It was very tedious for it rained off and on all the way and there were great spongy mud holes. At one point, Dad's load got bogged down and we unloaded all the groceries, except three coffee barrels on his wagon. To get out, we hooked eight horses to it! Then we continued our journey along Crystal Creek, well named for it had the clearest water I had ever seen. It is now called Clear Creek. We stayed there overnight and in the morning it was still raining. We continued to travel along the Clearwater River when suddenly a front wheel of Dad's wagon dropped into a hole, causing him to lose his balance and fall, breaking his collar bone. Somehow he got his arm tied up to his body but was unable to drive the four horse team so he and Mr. Hammerbeck exchanged loads. It was a slow and painful journey from then on for Dad. Finally we reached our destination, unloaded and stayed in Rocky Mountain House overnight. On our way home, we spent the night at Crystal Creek again. In the morning some of our horses were missing, causing further delay. By the time we found them and drove home, it was after dark. Normally the round trip from home and back took four days, but this time it took a whole week!

That winter (1911-12), I recall hauling oats to Rocky Mountain House. We had to pick it up east of Penhold. This necessitated going out the afternoon before and sleeping there so we could start work in the morning. Hilding Soderberg, Lars Soderberg, Dad, Axel and I all had teams. The oats had to be sacked, three bushels to a sack. It was time-consuming to measure, sack, sew the sacks shut, and load. It took all day. Again, we stayed at home ("the green house") overnight and started off west in the morning. The muskegs were frozen in winter, so the route was a little more direct. On these trips we stayed overnight at Mr. Bob Edgar's place near Hespero. At Rocky Mountain House we slept on the floor in a tarpaper shack around a big heater but it was very cold. This made a four day trip in addition to going for the loads. Of course, we always carried our own food and bedding. I will never forget the cold of those winter trips nor the rain in summer.

Dad was a big man and very powerful. Many stories are told of his unusual strength such as hoisting a 45 gallon drum onto wagons with no apparent effort and picking up the back wheel of the threshing machine so they could put a sheaf under to level it. No wonder he was a popular anchor-man for the many tug-of-war teams at the picnics!

All old timers have memories of runaways. When I was only eight years old I had my first one. Among the horses Dad had brought from High River was a light team that we used for driving and also to rake hay. One day the summer of 1907, John was hot and tired of raking so I volunteered "to spell him off." He told me that if the team tried to run away, just to jump over the back and let them go. I got along very well until a willow switch got

caught in the wheel and it clacked against the spokes, scaring the horses; naturally I got scared too and hopped over the back letting go of the lines. They ran very fast for about 80 rods until the wheel got caught in the fence ripping it and damaging the rake badly. Next day we had to take it to Red Deer to get the wheel straightened and other parts replaced, but the rake was never the same.

Another time we were cleaning out a shed. Two men were loading, and a couple of us boys were driving the manure wagons out to the field where Dad unloaded them for us. There were poles in the bottom of the wagon so that when they were moved, the manure fell through. I was driving one horse and one ox. I got along well going out with the load but coming back it was a little down hill and the wagon ran up on the team frightening them and they began to run. The ground was rough and the wagon bounced until the poles separated and I fell through. The team ended up in the slough!

Cars weren't used in winter, for there was no snow plowing done in those days. This incident happened in the early '20's when we were driving a team and cutter. It was a Sunday and Mother, George and I started out for church. We came to a spot where the snow was higher on one side and we upset. The driver had woollen mitts on and the reins just slipped through his hands. The cutter righted itself and the team ran off to the church, narrowly missing Mrs. Bjelke who was also on her way to the service!

There was considerable open range until after World War 1. Dad always had quite a few dual purpose Shorthorn cattle, and of course they all had to be branded. We didn't finish our cattle on grain but sold them directly off the grass when two or three years old. We boys thought it a big day when the cattle were rounded up and sold. Buyers came out to the farms, to make sales and arrange for delivery. We always looked forward to driving the cattle to the stockyards in town. The first time I recall going was in 1909. We went directly east on the township line from section 1 and on the way, we frequently joined up with others who were also driving their cattle to Red Deer, e.g. Mr. Gherke, Mr. Plummer or Mr. Fred Parks. We had special admiration for Mr. Parks' ability as a cowboy. He let about 20 feet of the end of his lasso drag behind his horse and used that as a whip. He could snap it just like a black snake, and when he shouted, his voice carried above everything and things really moved!

We crossed the river at the Bannerman Crossing and continued to the stockyards through West Park and down the "Peterson" hill. There was always trouble with the cattle getting into the bush there, for by then it was hot and the flies were bothering them. Once we got them safely to the stockyards, our work was finished. Town was always special. Dad would take us all to the Chinese restaurant and then if it got a bit late in the day, we'd stay at Cronquists overnight—fooling around with their boys. This was always a tremendous day in our young lives.

About five years later, we were chasing the cattle via the Burnt Lake trail and North Red Deer. Not too far from the present golf course, we caught up with Mr. Gherke. One animal of his became separated from the herd and plunged down the steep bank into the water before we reached the sawmill area. Dad was following with the team and wagon and he was able to drag the culprit up the bank. Then at the traffic bridge, another of



Eric Jacob Johanson Family — 1924. Back — George, Oscar, Axel, John. Front — Mrs. Johanson, Ellen, Mr. Johanson.

Mr. Gherke's animals refused to cross and got down the bank and into the river. We had to leave it. Later Mr. Gherke got it out using a dray team which took it directly to a spot where it was slaughtered! Mr. Gherke was so happy for our help, he treated us all to dinner!

The first grain I remember Dad selling was after the A.C.R. was built. At first there were no handling facilities at Cygent so we shovelled grain from the sleigh box at ground level into the box cars. Later we thought we were "well away" when a loading platform was built. It was very hard work, for we filled several cars each winter. We sold mostly feed oats (Banner), some barley (O.A.C.) and in later years, there'd be a couple of carloads of Garnet wheat. We saved about \$40.00 a carload by shovelling the grain ourselves. Dad was a founding member of the Alberta Wheat Pool.

Eric Jacob Johanson, born April 24, 1862, died May 8, 1927.

His wife, Anna Dorothea Johanson, born April 23, 1861, died April 5, 1932.

Both died of congestive heart failure. They lost their first child, aged 11 months shortly after they came to Canada. The others were all born on the homestead:

Ellen, born May 16, 1894, married John Smith December 19, 1922. They had four children. **John**, born December 16, 1895, married Olga Anderson December 24, 1919. They had seven children. **Axel**, born June 12, 1897, married Thora Margaret (Dora) Bjelke July 18, 1934. They had four children. **Oscar**, born July 5, 1899, married Elizabeth Faith Moseley July 2, 1934. They had two girls. **George**, born September 10, 1902 and died August 27, 1927. He was one of the first victims of the polio epidemic of that year. It was diagnosed as creeping paralysis originally.

THE JOHN JOHANSON FAMILY

In 1919, John Johanson, the eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Erick Johanson of Burnt Lake, and Olga Alice Anderson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Anderson of Shady Nook, were married in Red Deer.

John Johanson was born at Burnt Lake, in 1895 and received his elementary education at the local school. In addition to his elementary education, he attended Cana-

dian Junior College at Lacombe for one term and the Olds School of Agriculture for one term. During the First Great War, John was conscripted into the army. After his basic training, he was dispatched to the Canadian Forces in Europe for one year. At the conclusion of the war he returned to his father's farm. It was at this time that he wooed and won the heart of a young school teacher, Miss Olga Anderson.

J. P. Anderson, the father of Olga, immigrated from Sweden to U.S.A. in 1887. It was his intentions to bring his young family to the new world after he had either bought a farm or taken up a homestead. To achieve this objective, he worked for one dollar a day herding cattle and horses on several different ranches in Montana and Wyoming. At one time he and a partner bought a herd of horses which they broke and sold to the new settlers. Later he worked on the railroad. However, he quit this job when a woman ran all the railroad workers off her property with a six gun. He then went to work in a copper mine in Montana and later in the smelter at Great Falls, Montana. During this time, his wife who was still in Sweden, taught school in order to support the family. It seemed that J. P. Anderson would never be able to buy a farm, therefore he took up a homestead in Oklahoma. But he decided that Oklahoma was too wild a place to bring his young family so he traded his claim for a team of mules and sold them for six hundred dollars, which was almost a fortune in those days.

In 1894 he returned to Sweden and the following year he and his family immigrated to southwest Minnesota where he had relatives. He rented a quarter of land with buildings and farmed there for six years. It was not his intention to stay there so he did not buy. Then he heard about the wonderful land and homesteads in Canada. So he moved to Red Deer. He wanted to homestead west of the Medicine River and start ranching, but this land had not been surveyed. He bought a quarter of land from the C.P.R. in what is now the Shady Nook district. Later he did get a homestead west of the Medicine River but discovered that all the surrounding land was settled and there was no land to pasture cattle and horses. He farmed the homestead west of the Medicine for six years, then sold it and returned to the Shady Nook district.

Olga went to school at Happy Hill, Evarts, Shady Nook, and Red Deer high school. After high school, she attended a teacher's college at Camrose in 1916-1917. She taught school at Taimi, Beaver Flats, Ridgewood and Burnt Lake.

After their Christmas marriage in 1919, John and Olga lived with John's parents and Olga continued to teach school at Burnt Lake until the end of that school term. In the fall of 1920 they bought the NE 2-38-1-5 through the Soldier Settlement Board for \$4,000.00. John did not have enough money to make the first payment but he had two good teams of horses that he had bought from his father through the Soldier Settlement Board. His father, in turn, gave John the money back for the horses, and the first payment was made on the land. John had two cows and Olga had three heifers that they brought to their new farm from their parents' home. Then in the spring of 1921 they bought six milk cows and their calves through the Soldier Settlement Board. This gave them ten cows to milk so they bought a cream separator and sold cream.

Olga had raised some chickens while they were living with John's parents. This was the beginning of a regular practice of raising chickens and turkeys to be sold in the fall of the year to buy winter clothes and Christmas presents for the children. But the first year they were on the farm, Olga was unable to raise any chickens as a baby boy, **John**, was born May 13, 1921. That same spring, John planted most of the cultivated land into wheat, but he also planted some oats for the horses and some green feed for the cows. John and Olga were very encouraged by the prospects of the future until a hail storm dashed their dreams of a bountiful harvest. However, they did harvest sufficient grain so that there was seed for another year and some to sell, and they had money to live on until the cows freshened and there was cream to sell again.

During 1922 John bought a second quarter of land from his father, NE 35-37-1-5. Also during this year on September 22, a baby girl, Olive was born. In 1924 it was a disheartening year. The summer was dry, the crops and garden were poor. On July 24, a hail storm completely destroyed what crop there was. The hail also broke all the windows on the north and west sides of the house. During the storm it rained and hailed so much through the broken windows in the upstairs rooms that the water went through the floors and soaked the paper on the ceiling of the rooms below. When John and Olga woke the next morning, the wet ceiling paper was laying on the floor.

This same year, the cruelty of death became a reality to John and Olga. In August, their first born child, John, died from rheumatic fever. He was three years and three months old. However, new hope filled their lives in the winter that followed as Doris was born on December 17, 1924.

The years that followed were good years. There were good crops and the prices were fair. In 1927, John and Olga bought their first car, an Oldsmobile. In 1929 they had a "bumper" crop of wheat, 5,000 bushels, which could have been sold for \$2.50 per bushel that fall. John was certain the price would climb to \$3.00 before spring. However, the price dropped to 40¢ per bushel and they were introduced to the dirty thirties.

The thirties proved to be very hard years. There was not sufficient money to make the payments on the land. As a result, the Soldier Settlement Board instructed the struggling family to move off the land. However, Olga could not accept this defeat and insistently demanded that they be given a second chance to meet their obligations. Together John and Olga demonstrated their industry. They were milking seventeen cows by hand, and selling cream for 12¢ per pound of butterfat. However, they were able to arrange a deal with the Alpha Milk Company to sell milk provided they delivered the milk to Sylvan Lake by eight o'clock in the morning. They had managed their cow herd so there would be 25 cows to milk by spring. Considering these facts, the Soldier Settlement Board reconsidered their notice of eviction on the condition that they assign \$20.00 per month for debt disbursement.

In order to deliver the milk to Sylvan Lake, a distance of seven and one half miles, John "fixed-up" a "Bennett Buggy". The gears and wheels were off an old Ford car with a box on the back for the milk cans and a pole attached to the front axle so a team of horses could

pull it. This contraption was quite satisfactory until it rained, then the "Bennett Buggy" proved very difficult to maneuver through the mud. Later, the Alpha Milk Co. signed up a sufficient number of milk producers in the area to warrant hiring a trucker to pick up the milk at the farms. To be a milk truck driver during the thirties demanded a man of great courage and fortitude. In order to make the run, the driver had to fight his truck through one mud hole after another. Many times he had to unload and carry the milk cans up onto dry ground and get a farmer to pull his truck out of the mud with a team of horses. Then he would reload and be on his way.

Before the end of the depression, there were four more children: Edgar, Fern, Eric, and George. Even though John and Olga were living under extreme economic pressure, they were very thankful that they were able to feed and clothe the growing family. There was always an abundance of milk, butter and eggs. Every fall John went big game hunting west of Rocky Mountain House to secure a year's supply of meat. Usually this consisted of a moose, a deer, and an elk. This provided fresh meat all through the winter and then in the spring the remainder was canned for use during the summer. For these and many other blessings, John and Olga showed their gratitude to their Creator by regularly attending Sabbath School and church at the local Seventh-day Adventist Church.

When the Second World War started, the prices improved on milk, cattle, and grain; and the farm began to prosper. In 1945, John bought his first tractor, a 1927 John Deere with steel wheels. This tractor did not prove satisfactory so he bought a late model John Deere D from George Braithwaite. A hired man used this tractor to plow and disc the soil, while John seeded and harrowed with horses.

It was during the period 1945-1949 that the S. S. Jorgensen place, SE 2-38-1-5, was bought by John and Olga. This quarter of land had been homesteaded by a Swede, MR. LUNDEN, who lived in a one room shack with a stove pipe sticking out the door. MR. WARD bought the place after Mr. Lunden returned to Sweden. He in turn sold it to MR. FLETT who sold it to Andy Stewart. Mr. Jorgensen bought the farm from Mr. Stewart. Earlier John had taken up a homestead, using a Soldier's grant on Burnt Lake when it was opened up for homesteads for soldiers of the First World War. In this way he acquired W½ 18-38-28-4. The NE 35-37-1-5 was sold to the Sveinson Bros. and later the Charlie Blakely homestead, NE 18-38-28-4 was purchased.

Dairying had played a major role in the development of the farm since the thirties. In 1961 a new dairy barn was built. This was a loose housing type barn with a milking parlor and a separate room for a bulk milk tank, a place for washing the milkers, running water, and a bath room.

In 1962 a long awaited dream became a reality when John and Olga built a new house. The next five years were good years and they enjoyed the good life. Then in 1967 John developed arthritis and could not work. The farm was sold to their son Eric but the house and garden was to be their home for the rest of their lives. Eric built a house in the same yard for his family.

John was always a sportsman among sportsmen, a man who relished the challenge of a physical contest. He



John Johanson Family — 1951. Back — George, Edgar, Eric, Fern, Olive, Doris. Front — Olga, John. (Missing — Donovan).

always looked forward to the local community picnic with a great deal of enthusiasm. He was keenly interested in athletics and physical fitness, particularly in foot racing, and encouraged his children to participate in all types of track and field events. When John was fifty years old, he entered in the one hundred yard dash at the Burnt Lake picnic, competing with young men in their prime, and he won. On March 1, 1972, John died and was buried in the Burnt Lake Cemetery beside his eldest son.

All the children completed their elementary education at Burnt Lake in a one room country school. Olive, Doris, Edgar and Fern took grade ten at Shady Nook, a one room country high school. Olive, Doris and Edgar went to Red Deer to complete their high school education. Fern completed high school at Canadian Union College. Eric left school when he was fifteen and stayed at home working with John on the farm. **Olive** attended the University of Alberta and studied education. She has a B.Ed. degree and is teaching elementary school. **Doris** studied nursing at the Portland Adventist Hospital, Portland, Oregon. She was a practicing registered nurse in Alberta for many years. **Edgar** took the first year of college at Canadian Union College and then went on to Los Sierra College, Riverside, California where he received a B.Sc. Then he studied Medicine at Loma Linda University, Loma Linda, California. After completing one year of internship at the University of Alberta he studied Pathology in Houston, Texas. Edgar is Chief Pathologist at the Riverside County Hospital in California. **Fern** studied nursing at the Portland Adventist Hospital, Portland, Oregon and Walla Walla College, Washington where she attained a B.Sc. in nursing. She is the head intravenous nurse at the Portland Adventist Hospital, Portland, Oregon. **Eric** is farming the home place plus other land that he has purchased. On this farm he operates a large dairy and maintains a commercial beef herd. **George** completed high school in Red Deer and studied education at the University of Calgary. He has a B.Ed. and is teaching high school at Sylvan Lake. Besides teaching, he is farming in the Centerville community. **Donovan**, who was adopted into the family in 1950, attended school at Burnt Lake and Sylvan Lake. He left school in grade ten and took a course in Beauty

Culture in Red Deer. However he prefers to be a waiter in luxury restaurants in Calgary.

Throughout the years, Olga was determined that the children would get as much education as possible. In order to attain this objective she willingly lived in an old house, milked cows, fed calves, worked in the hay fields, raised chickens and turkeys and grew a large garden. At eighty-one years of age, she continues to have a keen interest in the activities of her family. In spite of the years of hard work she enjoys reasonably good health and continues to live in her house on the farm.

ERIC AND PHYLLIS JOHANSON FAMILY — by Phyllis Johanson

Eric and I have lived "Along the Burnt Lake Trail" all our lives: Eric was born September 14, 1932, in Mrs. Simon's Nursing Home, Red Deer, second son of John and Olga Johanson, and I was delivered by Dr. Mahaffy, October 1, 1942, in the Red Deer Municipal Hospital, only daughter of Ernest and Annie Pearson.

Memories of our youth revolve around the school and Burnt Lake. The school was the hub of the community and initiated hockey games, concerts, ball games, that left neighbours and children knowing one another better. The trips to school by horse, bike, cutter, or on foot are not to be forgotten. Winters found each child bundled so heavily that bending posed a problem.

The lake itself earned vivid childhood memories: of haying with over-throw stackers and horses; of horses swimming across the creek; of the train slowing down at Cygnet because of high water obliterating the tracks; of muskrat trapping during winter (this was one of Eric's ambitions); of coyote hunting; and of haying on the ice Christmas time in 1954. Water fowl, beaver, muskrats, deer and coyotes were a part of our habitat. It's hard to feature early pioneers such as my great-grandmother fishing for dinner in that same lake.

We are proud that our ancestors pioneered here. In 1895, my great-grandmother, Karen Persson, a nurse from Stockholm, Sweden, delivered Eric's father, John. Her fee: fifty pounds of flour.



Eric Johanson Family — 1976. Back — Phyllis, Kim, Holly. Front — Kevin, Eric, Sharon, Glen and Ricky.

Eric farmed with his father, working mostly with cattle. They ran one of the last threshing rigs in this area. The 1962 harvest saw them threshing the last time. A familiar winter scene of my family was to see Eric and John crossing the lake everyday with teams and racks for hay. My father, Ernie Pearson, liked to synchronize his trip with theirs to load and chat with them. For recreation, Eric enjoyed hunting coyotes with his greyhounds.

Eric and I were married January 3, 1964. I was teaching then. Our home on NE 2-38-1-5, sits on a ridge, a part of the original Burnt Lake Trail. We are operating the only dairy farm in the Burnt Lake district and ship quality-awarded milk to Alpha Dairy. To utilize our lake land, we raise Maine-Anjou beef cattle. Our children are: **Kim**, born April 10, 1965; **Holly**, born April 6, 1966; **Glen**, born July 2, 1967, as Red Deer's Centennial Baby; **Ricky**, born September 10, 1969; **Sharon**, born November 10, 1970; and **Kevin**, born February 29, 1972, Leap-Year day. They all enjoy their privilege of farm life and may keep our home in the family for generations to come.

THE AXEL JOHANSON FAMILY — by Dora Johanson

Axel was born in 1897 in the Burnt Lake district on the NE 10-38-1-5. He is the second oldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Eric Johanson who homesteaded in Burnt Lake in 1893. In 1902, his parents moved to Sec. 1-38-1-5 which they bought from the C.P.R. for \$3.00 per acre. There they built a log house. In 1910 they moved to the W ½ 6-38-28-4.

Axel took his schooling in Burnt Lake, Shady Nook and after soldiering in the First World War for a few months, he continued his schooling in Nampa, Idaho from 1919 to 1926.

In 1910 to 1912 he freighted cement with his dad and brother Oscar for the Rocky railroad bridge that crossed the North Saskatchewan River. This round trip took from four to five days depending on the weather. The roads were poor and they could only follow ridges in order to avoid muskegs and boggy land. When the freighting was completed, they hauled lumber from the Petepher Mill to Red Deer. They often stopped at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Gus Bjelke, west of Evarts, to feed their horses and to have a lunch. Axel and Oscar also hauled hay for the railroad at that time. Axel remembers plowing with oxen when he lived on Sec. 1-38-1-5. He was only ten or twelve years of age at this time and going to school was a secondary occupation. When there was nothing else to do, they went to school.

Between 1919 to 1926 during the summer holidays, he worked in the harvest fields in Washington driving sixteen head of mules on the combine. He came home after harvesting was completed and helped take off the crop at home. In 1927 his father died and three months later, his brother George died with polio. Consequently, Axel came home to stay and worked with his brother Oscar on the farm until he married.

Recreation in those days consisted of riding bucking horses with Dave Cronquist and playing baseball on the Burnt Lake team.

I, Dora Bjelke, was born in 1908 in the Diamond Valley district. I took part of my public schooling there and the rest in Burnt Lake when we moved there in the

spring of 1920. In Diamond Valley, we had to walk about three miles to school. It was a long walk in the winter time when it was cold, but we were kept nice and warm in mother's home knit stockings and mitts. Once, my brother Carl froze his ears walking to school and at recess time his ears were all flopped over. He really looked funny. I remember the lunches freezing in the winter time because the school was so cold. We had Rogers' Golden Syrup sandwiches and to this day I never buy that brand of syrup. There was always plenty of food around with father fishing in the Medicine River and snaring rabbits which were plentiful.

The land that my father homesteaded was very low and susceptible to frost, as a result we couldn't grow vegetables there and I remember Dad and Mother going to Engmans in New Hill to plant potatoes and vegetables. What a change when we moved to Burnt Lake and were able to grow beautiful vegetables and a school just across the road.

I took my high school in Sylvan Lake and Red Deer and worked for my board as so many other girls did at that time, and that meant little time for recreation. I took my Normal Training at the Calgary Normal School and did my practice teaching in Pine Hill when Miss Graham was teaching there. My last day there I remember quite vividly because I ended up by falling down the basement stairs at Sigurdsons where I was staying. In those days they had trap doors leading down to the basement and I happened to step back unawares that Mrs. Sigurdson had gone down to the basement. Somehow I lived through the royal bumps going down the stairs, although I've suffered with my back a great deal ever since.

My first school was the First Chance S.D. eight miles south of Lomond out on the bald prairie. This was quite a change for me coming from a wooded area. Going down south I travelled by train to Bow City and from there by stage coach to Lomond. I stayed only one year at this

school as I wanted to work closer to home. It was a good thing I left when I did because the following year everything went to rock bottom during the depression and they couldn't afford to pay their teachers, so I was lucky when I got a school at Poplar Ridge where the salary was at least a minimum of \$850.00 a year. What a contrast to what the teachers are getting today! I enjoyed my four years at Poplar Ridge very much, the people were so friendly and co-operative.

I remember one hectic experience I had while there and that was the 1934 hailstorm which wiped out the crops 100%. The children had just been dismissed to go home when I saw this big hailstorm coming up. I quickly got the children to put their horses away and come back into the school. We had no sooner come inside when the storm started. I remember having the children hiding under the desks with coats over their heads to avoid getting cut by flying glass or getting glass in their eyes, as glass was flying all over the school. I think nearly every pane of glass was broken. It was quite a frightening experience while the storm lasted.

I've always been interested in Sunday School work and the church and taught Sunday School for a number of years in Burnt Lake, until it terminated. I'm an active member of the Burnt Lake W.I. and was president at one time. I enjoy music, art, handicrafts and have often exhibited at the fairs. I still do a little showing at the W.I. handicrafts and baking exhibit held every year. In the early years of my marriage I was quite active in the Social Credit movement in the district. I remember going out to their meetings and social gatherings which were most enjoyable.

Axel and I (Dora Bjelke) were married in 1934 during the depression and moved to the W½ 6-38-28-4. At first we lived in a very small house built from lumber taken from the old green house or the haunted house as it was sometimes called. Our family finally out grew this dwelling and in 1950 we built a bigger one in which we live at the present time.

We were hailed out completely the first year of our marriage and times were tough on the farm for awhile. As for the depression years, we didn't suffer too badly. I remember the hired men we had in those days, two or three at a time. Many of them came from Saskatchewan where people on the farms were really hit hard. The government paid these men \$5.00 a month and the farmer was given \$5.00 a month to keep them. In those days we'd go to town with \$5.00 in our pocket and have enough money to put our horses in the livery stable (located where the Valley Hotel now stands in Red Deer), buy a few groceries and sometimes we'd even have a few cents left over.

We've been very fortunate through the years as far as tragedies go. We have had some very narrow escapes though. I remember Harriet was only two and one-half years of age when she got a peanut lodged in her left lung and had to be taken to the University Hospital to have it removed. Another time she had a bad runaway on the rake on Burnt Lake and was thrown off the rake and had to be taken to the hospital. Somehow she pulled through this harrowing experience although it was nip and tuck for awhile. Another time, we were sitting in the kitchen enjoying a cup of coffee when we saw Margaret driving by the kitchen window in the old lumber wagon. She had



Dora and Axel Johanson's wedding July 18, 1934.



Axel Johanson and a team of horses — 1934-'35.

hitched up a stallion and an old mare to the wagon all by herself and there she was sitting on top of the seat just as proud as a peacock, quite oblivious to the fact that she could have been killed. Needless to say that was the end of our coffee break as we rushed out to take care of Margaret. She was only seven or eight years of age at this time.

We were blessed with four children — three girls and one boy. **Margaret**, a school teacher with a B.Ed. Degree, is married to Jim Rendall of One Hundred Mile House, British Columbia. They live at home in a trailer part time. Jim trains and shows horses, specializing in Quarter Horses. They have won many trophies through the years. **Harriet** has her B.Sc. in Nursing and is married to Nico van der Giessen, a civil engineer of Edmonton, who is presently Head Planner for the Environmental Basin in Grande Prairie. They have three children named Jaret, Nico and Michael. **Klara**, a Laboratory Technologist, is married to Bert Bystrom who farms in the Centerville district. They have three children, Todd, Sandra and Pauline. Our son, **David**, is a qualified Electrician and also an Alberta Guide and Outfitter.

Axel is an avid hunter who has hardly ever missed a hunting trip to the west country in the fall. With father and son hunting every year, we've always had an abundant supply of wild meat. Incidentally, the first year that we were married I went hunting with him. I hadn't been on a horse for two years and the first day after riding all day, I was so stiff that I couldn't get off the horse without assistance and in the morning I needed help getting on. I soon limbered up and thoroughly enjoyed myself in spite of the severe cold, and following Axel over deadfalls and windfalls. Although I had done a great deal of walking while teaching, I was totally unprepared for this kind of exercise and usually by eleven o'clock in the morning, I was thoroughly exhausted and famished. A frozen jam sandwich at noon tasted very delicious. Axel is also interested in horses and sports. Through the years when the children were growing up the Benalto Fair and Stampede was a big highlight when the children and he showed horses there. At the age of 79, (1976) Axel still does a little farming and sings bass in the Presbyterian Choir in Sylvan Lake.

OSCAR JOHANSON — for early history see Eric Johanson

Oscar was the third son of Eric Johanson. He was born on the homestead July 5, 1899 and most of his schooling was at Burnt Lake. One of the outstanding memories of school days was that of a teacher grabbing him by the hair and shaking him because he had inadvertently rubbed something off his slate which he had been told to copy! He was extremely shy as a child and was deeply humiliated by this experience. Like most country boys in the early days, school attendance was rather irregular due to work pressures at home.



George and Oscar Johanson breaking land.

Visits between the Johanson and Cronquist boys were customary but one occasion in 1909, Oscar recalls especially vividly. While the adults were safely away at church, the boys decided to engage in some rodeo activity. After roping and saddling some big yearlings, it was arbitrarily decided that everyone must ride. As the saddle had been secured far back on the animal, the cowboys received full benefit of each buck! Fortunately no one was hurt. Oscar dearly loved to play ball, so attending the neighboring community picnics highlighted the summers. Horses provided transportation to these favored occasions. The first Benalto Stampede is also among his fond recollections.

In 1926, the doctor recommended that Oscar's father should spend sometime at the west coast to alleviate his heart condition in a lower altitude. In anticipating the train trip with his dad, Oscar asked the doctor what precautions should be taken going over the mountains. As this was during the prohibition, the doctor gave him a permit to obtain some brandy. A little past Banff the train appeared to be climbing and thus, Oscar ascertained that it must be time for medicine. Totally unaccustomed to alcoholic beverages and loathing them, Oscar filled a paper cup with brandy and presented it to his dad, who somehow managed to down it. However, when offered another dose a few miles further along his father graciously but emphatically declined. In spite of the coach being filled with the unmistakable aroma of brandy, no one questioned their bold action! It was years later that Oscar realized their procedure had been very much out of order.

During adulthood, Oscar developed many community interests. He acted as Secretary-Treasurer for fourteen years for the Swan Lake School District (later Burnt Lake). In the early years the Secretary-Treasurer was

responsible for collecting taxes. From January 1923 until November 1961, he was Superintendent of the local Sunday School. It was Inter-denominational and was held each Sunday in the Swedish Baptist Church. For highlights, see the Church History. Oscar served as Councillor from February 1934 through 1944 for the Municipality of Golden West. When the municipality was enlarged he felt he could no longer give it the time required to do a good job. Mr. Andrew Lindholm requested Oscar take over the cemetery books, which he did, in the late fall of 1937. In 1973 he was honored, like many others, with a plaque as a founding member of the Wheat Pool (founded 1923).

On July 2, 1934 he married Elizabeth Faith Moseley and they made their home throughout the years on the Edward Carl Peterson homestead, SW 14-38-1-5. There they carried on a mixed farming operation.

On April 23, 1975 Oscar had a farm machinery sale and rented his land to Eric Johansen Jr. However, Oscar and his wife have remained on the farmstead. He enjoys very good health and looks forward to winter and curling.

His wife, Faith, was born in Brownsburg, Quebec and came west to Red Deer with the John Charles Moseley family in the spring of 1913. Here the children grew up and attended public and high school. Faith attended the Calgary Normal School and taught for a year, obtaining her first class teaching certificate. Later, she graduated from the Royal Alexandra School of nursing as gold medalist. Following this she took post graduate work in teaching and administration at McGill University in Montreal and then returned to her Alma Mater as instructor. Following her marriage, Faith did no active nursing but continued to be interested in its affairs. When the Alberta Association of Registered Nurses divided the province into large districts in 1939, she became the first chairman of the Central Alberta region. She was presented with an Honorary membership in the Alberta Association of Registered Nurses at their convention in 1970. From March 1959 through the fall of 1971, she served on the Red Deer General Hospital Board and was the first woman to do so. On October 13, 1972 she was cited by the membership for outstanding service by the Central Regional Conference of the Alberta Hospital Association. The Red Deer Quota Club honoured her as Woman of the Year on two occasions for her outstanding

contribution to the Red Deer district. In the Burnt Lake district Faith became a member of the Women's Institute and served as Constituency Convener of Red Deer West from 1964 to 1968. Very dear to her heart was the work with Oscar in the local Sunday School.

Their family consisted of two girls, Dorothea Grace and Ethel Kathleen. Music has been the main theme to date in the life of **Dorothea Grace**, Oscar and Faith's elder daughter. Her early training was received at Sylvan Lake and Red Deer. She obtained her Associate of Music in teaching Piano from the Western Board of Music, University of Alberta and earned the Provincial Silver Medal for highest marks in Pedagogy. Attending the Banff School of Fine Arts, opened new opportunities which eventually led her to move to Calgary in 1961. The training she received while teaching the Yamaha Music Course, 1967-1972, was enriching and a springboard to other avenues of Early Childhood Music. At present, Dorothea has a large enthusiastic piano class, as well as acting as travelling music teacher and serves as music advisor to several kindergartens in Calgary. For many years, teaching a class each Sunday at the Burnt Lake Sunday School was significant to her. Many meaningful summers and weekends were spent at Pioneer Ranch Camps during the years 1958-1966. From Dorothea's wide variety of interests, Photography has taken pre-eminence and it is with considerable persistence that she continues to perfect this artistic endeavor.

The equestrian heritage continued in the Johansen family after horses were no longer needed for utilitarian purposes. **Ethel Kathleen**, second daughter of Oscar and Faith, maintained a tremendous interest in pleasure horses. Coupling that interest with a concern for children, she became involved with leadership at Pioneer Ranch Camps under the auspices of Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship. Varied experiences there strongly influenced her personal philosophy for living. Music, Ethel's other love, led her to the University of Alberta, Edmonton and a Bachelor of Music degree in 1965 (majoring in singing). Having obtained a teaching certificate she taught elementary school. Her career was highlighted by one year in the isolated settlement of Povungnituk, Arctic Quebec where she taught and lived amongst the Eskimo people. On October 25, 1969 Ethel Kathleen married John Magnus. They live in Calgary where John has continued his Law practice. Their children are: Nolan John born March 20, 1971, Bradley Preston born September 18, 1972, Duncan Kelsey born February 14, 1974 and Christopher Anthony born May 6, 1976.

OTTO HERMAN JOHANSON

Otto was born November 13, 1875. In April 1893, at the age of 17 he came with his older brother from Ramsele, Sweden to the Burnt Lake area. He lived with his brother Eric and homesteaded the SE 10-38-1-5 which adjoined Eric's south border. Otto's homestead house was of log and was built on the centre of the quarter. Under the history of the cemetery you will see that Otto donated 2.68 acres on the southeast corner of his quarter for this purpose. Later, he sold 40 acres on the southwest corner for a stopping house.

Otto was always more interested in carpentry than farming and spent considerable time in construction in



Oscar Johanson Family — 1952. Mrs. Johanson, Ethel, Dorothea, Oscar.



Otto Johanson — 1912.

Calgary. In this area, he worked on the building of the "Industrial School" west of the Old Crossing, i.e., the ford at Fort Normandeau. His job was carrying bricks up a ladder to the brick layers! Later on, he built a number of buildings locally, among them were Andrew Halverson's house and barn, the Jonas Smith house, and the John Smith home. In 1928, he built the residence now occupied by the Oscar Johanson family.

There were three young ladies in Sweden who decided to come to Canada as a big adventure. Little is known of their previous history but they were in Calgary when Otto met them while working in construction there. He married Lena Sjolander of Bergsjö, Sweden, in the fall of 1898. They came to his homestead in Burnt Lake where their daughter, **Elsie**, was born June 23, 1899. Elsie is now Mrs. Walter Harris of North Vancouver. Nearly four years later a son, **Waldemer**, was born. He has been dead for a number of years.

In the meantime, another of the immigrant girls, Martha Hake married Mathias Mattson of the hamlet of Stockholm and they lived here for years. The third girl met and married **Andrew John Nyberg** and they lived on his homestead on NE 36-37-1-5. Mrs. Nyberg died of tuberculosis and she is buried in the Burnt Lake cemetery. Later Mr. Nyberg married Anna Erickson, a sister to Mrs. Oscar Selstrom. There were two children, a daughter Ethel, and a son Nels. Mr. Nyberg died of T.B.,

aged 46, March 26, 1907 and is buried in the Burnt Lake cemetery. Nels died in 1974.

In 1924 Otto purchased four lots on the hill south of the village of Sylvan Lake from his brother, Eric. He built himself a small house where he lived until his death on April 27, 1945. He always baked his own bread and took great pride in it. He also derived much pleasure from playing both his organ and violin.

ELMER AND ELEANOR JOHNSON FAMILY

Elmer is of Finnish descent. His father, Matt Harju, who changed his name to Johnson because there was so many Harjus, came from Wassa, Finland when he was 18 years old. Matt met and married Hulda Elizabeth Talson of Almy, Wyoming and they homesteaded two miles north of Eckville. There was 13 children born to this union, six boys and seven girls. Elmer was born in 1927 and took his schooling in Eckville until his mother's death when he was 14 years old. At this time, he went to live with his sister and brother-in-law, Aillie and Hal Thompson of the Poplar Ridge district. In 1947 Elmer began his life's work of plastering and stuccoing.

Eleanor, daughter of Walter and Dorothy Johnson of Stettler was born in 1930 and raised in Stettler. Eleanor's parents homesteaded in the Liberal area north of Stettler. Her mother came from Washington and her father came from Michigan. They had a family of three girls and three boys. Eleanor's father was the bailiff at Stettler for many years. Eleanor can remember her mother going with her dad and taking her bread dough with her and kneading it along the way. When they returned in the evening, it would be ready to put in the oven to bake. When it was done, the fresh hot crusts were only good for Dad! Times were hard and it was difficult for Eleanor's dad to foreclose on people.

In 1948 Eleanor moved to Red Deer and worked for Lawrence Ltd., Eaton's, and for ten years developed and tinted photos for Henry Mars Studio. It was while she was in Red Deer she met Elmer and in 1949 they were married. A family of five girls and three boys were born to them. **Linda** was born in 1950, **Valerie** in 1952, **Raymond** in 1954, **Nancy** in 1957, **Robert** in 1959, **Dixie** in 1961, **Mark** in 1962 and **Shannon** in 1965. Linda married Daryl Elson of Eckville in August 1970. They are living in Calgary where Daryl is employed with the City of Calgary. They became the proud parents of twins, Chad and Crystal in June 1974. Valerie married Don McLean of Eckville in 1970 and have a daughter Melanie. They live in Red Deer. Weddings seem to come in bunches for the Johnsons as their son Robert married Linda Holtom of Sylvan Lake in October, 1976 and their oldest son Raymond, is to be married to Theresa Sutherland in December, 1976. And, plans for Nancy's wedding to Terry Kumm in the spring of 1977 are being made. The three younger children, Dixie, Mark and Shannon are still at home attending school in Sylvan Lake.

The Johnsons lived in Red Deer operating their own stucco and plastering business, Red Deer Plastering and Stucco in partnership with Ken McLeod, until the fall of 1965 when the family moved to a farm northwest of Eckville. They got their first taste of "modern pioneering". It was quite an adjustment for Eleanor, city-raised, to move to a farm where there wasn't any modern facilities. This was a new experience for the family and

they thoroughly enjoyed the down-to-earth living. Their love for animals grew and after living in Red Deer again for a short time, they purchased the N ½ 10-38-1-5 from Ernest Trachsel and moved into the Burnt Lake district in the summer of 1972. Their brother-in-law, Hal Thompson farms the land but besides operating his own business, Elmer and the family still find time to look after their own livestock.

Prior to moving to Burnt Lake, Eleanor had started her chicks and turkeys in Red Deer, which in itself was something for their neighbor's children to see. When the time came to move, they loaded the brooder house, complete with poultry, onto a dolly and out they came. They all survived the trip, despite a fall when one of the wheels came off the dolly. They acquired all the stray cats and dogs from friends and neighbors so soon had lots of pets. In the spring of 1973, the brooder house caught fire and burned, but with the help of neighbors and friends, they were able to contain the fire to some extent but lost the brooder house, most of the chickens and turkeys and three granaries full of grain.

Eleanor has many interests and hobbies and as an added accomplishment has learned to swim through a program at the Recreation Center in Red Deer. The entire family has settled into farm life and enjoy living in the community.

SOPHUS S. JORGENSEN

Sophus Jorgensen was born at Red Deer of Danish parents on April 6, 1897. He went to school at Clearview, south of Red Deer. He joined the armed forces and went overseas in 1916, was badly wounded and taken back to England from France in 1917 after the battle of Vimy Ridge. He spent a year around the hospitals in England and was sent back to Canada in May 1918 and discharged. Sophus claims there must be something wonderful about the Alberta air as he is still here, looking hale and hearty, 58 years later.

In 1920 he married Mary Pamela Stockman who had just come out from Forest Grove, Oregon, U.S.A. She had been born in Spokane, Washington but had her schooling in Forest Grove. Mary wanted to be close to her parents so Sophus bought a farm, the former A. L. Stewart farm, SE 2-38-1-5.

Sophus says, "We were indeed farming on a shoe string. The first crop was oats and I loaded a carload at Cygnet elevator for 23¢ a bushel and by the time I got to Red Deer it had dropped to 17¢ a bushel. I had borrowed money from the bank to buy the land and had to pay 10% of the purchase price so that is where the oat crop went. Next year we were hailed out and by that time our son, Calvin, was born and things were really tight. I managed to scrape enough together to pay on the farm so we didn't have to sell that but it was a tight squeak. Two or three years after this Mary got infantile paralysis and with doctor bills, hospital bills, etc. I don't know what we would have done if it hadn't been for the muskrats I trapped on Burnt Lake and sold for \$3.00 a pelt. Mary never fully recovered from the paralysis. She could only walk around the house by support from the furniture. But she did her household duties and enjoyed the cooking and keeping everything in ship-shape order. She was a wonderful cook and did beautiful handwork.

I was lucky and got a homestead and grant from the Soldier Settlement Board which I have kept all these



Mary and Soph Jorgensen, before 1971.

years until I finally sold the NE 13-38-1-5 just recently when I was visiting my friends in the Burnt Lake district.

We moved to Calgary in 1937 and I got a job as meat cutter at Safeways and we moved again in 1950 to Vancouver. I was also meat cutter at Safeways in Vancouver and Victoria after 1963.

We had two children, **Calvin**, who served as a sailor in the second World War and now lives in Victoria, and **Pamelia** who also lives in Victoria. Both are married and each have four children. Mary's mother lived with us in Calgary from 1938 to when she died in Vancouver in 1960.

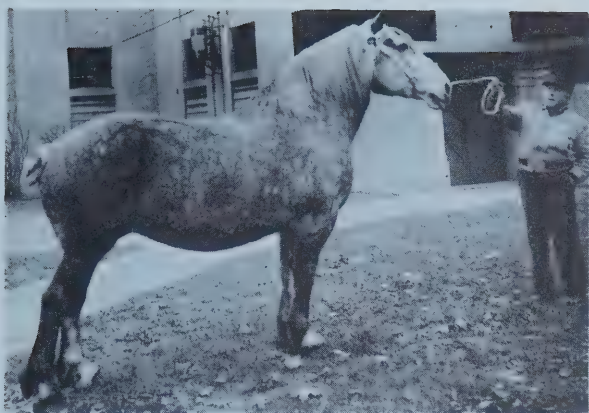
When we were living in Calgary, Mary took up petit point and worked at that continually for many years. She was a semi-invalid so it was very fortunate that she could spend her spare time making those beautiful petit point pictures. She won the Silver Medal at the Pacific National exhibition in Vancouver against hobbyists from all over North America and the next year she won the Bronze Medal.

Mary died in 1971 so I am alone now with my two children, Calvin and Pamelia, eight grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Having paid taxes in Burnt Lake for more than 50 years I feel I can call myself a Burnt Laker and the best of everything to my friends there."

LEONARD AND OLGA KENNEDY — by Olga Kennedy

Leonard and Olga (myself) Kennedy live on part of SE 27-38-1-5, a parcel of land owned by our son and daughter-in-law, Harvey and Lynn Kennedy. This land was formerly owned by Lindholm brothers. In the fall of 1973 we moved our mobile home here from Manitoba. Winter came fast and it was very cold in November. We had to build a barn, so in the mean time the two cows we milked, were put in a porch of a trailer 6' x 6' which was pushed up against a strawstack for an end, until the barn was finished.



Leonard Kennedy with his champion Percheron Mare — 1961.

We sold our farm at MacGregor, Manitoba where we farmed a half section. While there we raised registered purebred Percheron horses, registered Shorthorn cattle, Cheviot sheep and White English pigs. Leonard took our horses to many fairs, and went to the Royal Winter Fair at Toronto ten years in a row, and never came home without a red ribbon, and some years he came with a new horse. I enjoy working with my flowers outside and indoors and love working at different hobbies.

Leonard was born at Gladstone, Manitoba, March 5, 1912. His parents, John and Margaret (nee Grantham) farmed in the Gladstone district and then in Westbourne, Manitoba. I was born in Portage la Prairie, Manitoba, March 29, 1918. My father, John Rangren, was born in Sweden. My mother, Agnes (nee Lamonby) was born at Neepawa, Manitoba. My father died accidentally by electrocution when I was three weeks old.

Leonard and I were married November 19, 1934 at Portage la Prairie, Manitoba. We have a family of three. **Lorene**, Mrs. Dave McQuiston of Killarney, Manitoba, **Melvin** of Elkhorn, Manitoba and **Harvey** of Burnt Lake, and six grandchildren.

We like living in Alberta and find the climate much nicer than Manitoba. Our neighbors are very friendly where we live. We are now very well settled. Besides our Percheron horses, we have Charolais cattle, and some white laced Hamburg chickens. These are a rare chicken, very pretty, black and white in color.

We had a most exciting time when we brought our horses here and turned them out in the field. When we went back to Mr. Proctors to get the other two horses, the six we let in the field were gone. Mr. Proctor came over to see if the horses were out because a lady had phoned him saying that there were horses going to Sylvan Lake past their place. He took Leonard and they found the horses at the Sylvan Lake school yard. Leonard asked a little boy if he had seen any horses, to which the boy replied. "Yes there was one in our back yard a few minutes ago." So I guess the horses made the tour around the town. With the aid of the neighbor we got them home. That's when I found out how far we lived from Sylvan Lake, as I walked and led the horses home.

HARVEY, LYNN AND JULIE KENNEDY

On August 11, 1973 our family, Harvey, Lynn and daughter **Julie**, age five, moved our mobile home onto an

acreage in the Burnt Lake district. We had purchased part of SE 27-38-1-5, consisting of approximately 100 acres, from the Lindholm Brothers that spring and by August we had power, well, road and sewer facilities.

Our home was originally around MacGregor and Portage la Prairie, Manitoba where we were married on September 2, 1967. Harv became a welder and we decided to move to Edmonton in 1969, where job opportunities for pipeline welders were available. After residing in Edmonton for two years we moved to Sylvan Lake. We've always liked this area as its countryside is so picturesque and the location is central to Calgary and Edmonton. We have met lots of people and have found them to be good neighbors and friends always willing to lend a helping hand.

Many memorable experiences have happened, along with a lot of work and good times. Before we had a corral built we had some humorous happenings with cattle. A wild young bull was brought home from the auction one time. As soon as he was unloaded he tore through two fences and hid in Lindholm's bush for a day and night. Finally after stomping through the bush looking for him, he became lonesome and wandered back to the cattle at home. Another bull had to be dehorned. We decided to improvise and put his head between two trees that formed a "Y". But he got excited, took a leap, and there he was stuck. The rib cage and flank were wedged between the two trees holding him tightly. After an hour or so of raising his hind end with planks, blocks, etc., and twisting his tail to get the lazy soul to help himself, he finally got free.

We have a few riding horses and enjoy an occasional ride together. Julie has her own pony with which she spends a lot of time and can do most anything with. All in all, each one pitches in and works to improve our place in his own way, as there is never any end of improvements to make.

Harvey was born in Portage la Prairie, Manitoba on March 22, 1944. Lynn (nee Fischer) was born in Portage la Prairie, Manitoba on March 4, 1950.

BOB AND MARIE KIEVER

Bob and Marie Kiever, with sons **Russel**, 10, and **Kurtis**, 3, moved into the Burnt Lake district in 1971 from Fort McMurray where Bob worked for the Hudson's Bay store as a meat cutter while Marie worked in the dry goods department.

Bob owned and operated Gourmet Meats in Red Deer. They purchased an acreage, a subdivision of the Freda and Ed Smith property, the NE 16-38-1-5. They had just moved in and were nicely settled, when one day in July Marie's sister from Edmonton came to visit. They all went to spend the hot summer afternoon on the beach at Sylvan Lake. On returning, they found the house engulfed in flames; it was totally destroyed by the time the fire truck arrived. This old house, built by the Jonas Smith family in 1918, had been a landmark in the area.

The Kievers moved a house trailer in and later, a larger, double-wide trailer. The Burnt Lake Ladies held a shower on their behalf. They sold the business in Red Deer; the acreage was bought by Steve and Bonnie Szabo from Calgary who are the present (1976) owners.

After the Kiever's auction sale in the fall of 1973, they moved to Edmonton and later to a farm at Elk Point. They are presently at Swan Hills.

THE KNOEPFLI FAMILY

Mrs. Elizabeth Knoepfli, who had lost her husband and one son in Ontario came West with her four children (August, Lily, Mary and Henry) from Ahmic Harbor, near Sarnia, Ontario in about 1914. At first they lived west of Sylvan Lake but in the spring of 1916 they moved to the "Captain James place" by the railroad tracks, a mile east of Sylvan Lake. In 1919 they moved into the Burnt Lake district, to what was called the "Dominique place", SE 22-38-1-5 and lived there two years. They bought the SW 22-38-1-5 and in 1923 the "Falkner place" by Sylvan Lake, NE 33-38-1-5.

After their sale in 1926, Mrs. Knoepfli went to Calgary where she worked as a domestic until 1932 or '33 when she went to the Peace River country to be with her family. Mrs. Knoepfli passed away in 1938, aged 73 years.

August married Esther Lindman. They had two children, Jean (Mrs. Gerald Vick) and Allan and all are living at Hines Creek, Alberta. **Lily** (Mrs. Bill Thompson) died in 1937. **Mary** (Mrs. Bill Uhlig), now widowed, and her son Wilfred, live in Grimshaw, Alberta. **Henry** married Esther Martz and is living in Grimshaw, Alberta. They have five girls: Margarite (Margie is Mrs. Ernie Speaker) of Bentley; Ina (Mrs. Art Kubbernus) of Edmonton; Pauline (Mrs. Al Kolson); Carol (Mrs. Boston) and Rosemary.

AUGUST AND ESTHER KNOEPFLI STORY — by Esther Knoepfli

I was born to Axel and Maria Lindman, a very cold morning with ice on the window panes, September 8, 1904. My parents both came from Sweden, and our area was really a Swedish neighborhood, so that was the only language I knew until I was about seven years old. As I was the oldest child born to the Lindmans I was involved in a lot of outside work with my dad. I have three sisters and one brother and we were all raised on the quarter section of C.P.R. land NE 23-38-1-5, which my only brother John and his wife Molly own and live on. I went to school in Sylvan Lake.

Those early years at home in Burnt Lake were highlighted with Sunday School programs and worship services, which nearly everyone attended, quite contrary to today. Sunday School at Burnt Lake was held in the Swedish language by Mrs. P. Olson and our grandfather, A. G. Lindholm. At one time there were three churches of different denominations at Burnt Lake. Our Christmas concerts were enjoyed, and the get togethers, coasting and skiing on the steep hills where Soderbergs lived, also the sleigh rides and horseback riding.

I worked for the family of Harvey Jamieson of Sylvan Lake some, and will always treasure fond memories of that family.

In 1926 August Knoepfli and I were married. August came from Ontario with his mother (a widow) and brother and sisters (see Elizabeth Knoepfli story). He applied himself to duties at home and later did some working out. He worked for Frank Dallaire Sr. on the farm, and in the wintertime in the lumber mill he hauled logs with a four or six horse team. He was an excellent horseman. He loved hunting and fishing and did it successfully. While in the Burnt Lake area we lived and farmed on SE 28-38-1-5, now known as the Captain



August Knoepfli family — 1931. Esther, August, Allan and Jean.

James place, and also NE 21-38-1-5, the Welton place. Our second child Allan was born here in 1929; Jean the oldest was born in 1927 when we were living in the Prevo district on the "Webber" place. In 1931 we moved to the Mighty Peace River Country, living the first three years in the Lost Lake district eleven miles north of Whitlaw while August built a home on the homestead 17 miles east of Hines Creek. On May 5, 1934 we moved to our new home and I still reside there.

August passed away in 1942; and the family and I carried on as best we could. My son **Allan** and family built a home and live in the same yard with me. Allan and his wife Becky have four boys. **Jean** married Gerald Vick and they live one and one half miles north. They have four children. I have eight grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

I have many happy memories of friends and loved ones back home, and enjoy the visits when I go there or they call on us here.

THE KROETSCH FAMILY

Arthur (Art) and Vera (Maxine) Kroetsch and three of their family moved to the Burnt Lake district on June 28, 1974. They purchased their property, an acreage subdivided from SE 16-38-1-5 from Mrs. Helja Hanson. They came from Forestburg where they had operated a mixed farm for thirty years.

Art's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Alfax Kroetsch came from North Dakota, U.S.A. to farm in the Forestburg district. Art was born there and is the second oldest of the family. Maxine's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Blackmore came from England in 1928 and lived at Gadsby where Maxine was born. Her parents farmed there. Art and Maxine were married in Forestburg in 1944. They celebrated their 25th Anniversary in 1969.

Art enjoys breaking horses to re-sell. Maxine enjoys gardening and loves growing flowers. Since living here they have worked at Valley View Greenhouses in the spring. They both enjoy dancing. They have seven children. **Dale** married Elaine Robb. They live at Daysland where he is a cleaning plant operator. They

have two children. **Wayne** married Pauline Forton. They live at Medley, an Air Force base by Cold Lake. They have two children. **Cynthia** (Mrs. Harney Lingrell) has two children. Her husband is a mechanic and they live in Fort Saskatchewan. **Brad** married Virgie Herder. He is a meat cutter and they live in Edmonton. They have one child. **Dwight** works at Deerhome, Red Deer. **Kevin**, grade eight and **Darrel**, grade six, are at home and going to school at Sylvan Lake.

JACK ELMER LARKA

Jack, a grandson of Mr. and Mrs. Peter Olson, was born in Calgary in 1917. He went to Sweden when he was two years old and returned to Canada when he was about five years old. He started school at Burnt Lake and could only speak Swedish. Mrs. Frank T. Dallaire was his first teacher.

He left Sylvan Lake in 1936 and worked in Calgary and Southern Alberta doing carpentry work in the summer and logging in the winter. Jack worked in the coal mine in 1942 and enlisted in the Army in 1943. He met his wife Betty Todd of Redwater, Alberta while he was in the Army at Chilliwack, British Columbia, and they were married in 1944.

Their first two boys, **Andy** and **Don**, were born at Chilliwack. The family then moved to Haney, British Columbia where Jack worked in a lumber mill. After the flood of 1948 they moved to Kamloops as the mills were closed on the Lower Mainland. Jack again worked in a lumber mill at Kamloops where their third boy **Larry** was born. In 1949 they moved to Crows Nest Pass where Jack obtained work with a logging firm. They lived in the bush at the logging camp and Andy and Don took their schooling by correspondence. After four years of teaching Andy and Don, Betty decided that was enough and they moved back to Haney.

In 1960 Jack's father died and also in 1960 their daughter **Patsy**, was born. They came to Sylvan Lake in 1960 for a visit and ended up staying and working for two years. They rented a house on the SW 10-38-1-5. From here they went to Hinton where Jack and the boys cut pulp for five years. In the meantime they filed on a homestead at Woking where they still reside. During the last year at Hinton, Jack and the boys worked on the construction of the railroad between Hinton and Grande Prairie. They worked for Mannix Construction and both Jack and Andy were foremen. They all found this very interesting work and it led to Andy and Larry taking heavy equipment training and taking courses at N.A.I.T. for their present occupations.

The boys are now married to local girls. Andy and Don married sisters. Andy and Merry Anne have a boy and a girl and Larry and Paulette have two girls. Don and Larry and their families live in Grande Prairie while Andy and his family live in a mobile home on the farm. Larry is a welder for a logging truck outfit. Andy is a millwright at a lumber mill in Grande Prairie. Don also works in Grande Prairie as an edgeman.

H. LARSEN

In 1899, H. Larsen was a homesteader on the SW 2-38-1-5. Years later it was bought from his son Carl by Swain Swainson, but still in 1977 it is known as the Larsen quarter.

Mr. Larsen had been a Norwegian sea captain before immigrating to Canada. There was a family of five children, the three eldest being **Carl**, **Lisa** and **Ida**. The two younger children and Mrs. Larsen went to Portland, Oregon. Carl served in the armed forces in World War I.

One summer day, perhaps around 1912 or '13, a prairie fire swept through the area, including the Larsen farm. Two young lads, Levi Erickson and Fred Sjoquist, were badly burned helping to fight the fire. At first no trace could be found of Mr. Larsen, but eventually his body was found by Elof Holmgren in a meadow. His faithful dog was beside him and would let no one near. The police had to shoot the dog before they could remove the body. A hearing was held at Stockholm, and medical evidence confirmed that Mr. Larsen had died from natural causes some time before the fire.

LEN AND PAT LARSON

Len and Pat Larson came to Burnt Lake in 1960 to live on a part of NW 36-37-1-5. This land was originally homesteaded by J. Sveinson before the turn of the century and remains in the family, passing from a granddaughter Irene Latam and her husband to a grandson, Stanley Swainson. It was subdivided and Earl Dick bought an acreage, and in turn sold to the Larsons.

The Larsons had five children, **Shannon**, **Debbie**, **Kenneth**, **Susan** and **Martin**. Their stay was comparatively brief and subsequent occupants have been Don Hall, A. Jenne and presently (1976), **WAYNE** and **THERESA KINZEL** who have two children May and Angela.

THE LORNE LATAM FAMILY

Irene Peterson was born and raised in the Burnt Lake district. She lived with her grandmother, Steinun Sveinson and Uncle Leo Sveinson. Irene took grades 1-9 at the Burnt Lake School.

In 1945 she married Lorne Latam, who had just returned from serving six years overseas. They made their home in Red Deer until 1947 when they moved to Burnt Lake, NW 36-37-1-5. In 1958 they moved back to



Lorne Latam Family — 1972. L. to R. — Bob Reay, his wife Karen, Wanda and Reg Warren, Lorne and Irene Latam and daughter Lorna.

Red Deer. They had three daughters. **Wanda**, married Reg Warren. They have a son, Corwyn and live in Nanaimo, British Columbia. **Karen** is married to Bob Reay. They have a son Mathew, and a daughter Christine. They live in the Red Deer district. The youngest daughter, **Lorna**, is living at home. Lorne passed away on December 9, 1974.

LEBIHAN

While her family lived in Red Deer, Eva Dominique attended school at the Old Castle, and in 1908, was one of the first pupils attending the then newly-built St. Joseph's Convent. On February 20, 1912, Eva married Gabriel Jean-Marie LeBihan, who had been born in Finisterre, Guillianic, Brittany, France. He was conscripted into the Navy, and his cessation came about in 1904. He came to Red Deer on April 22, 1911, where he was employed by Captain Dominique in the lumber yard. Shortly after their marriage, they went to work at Bassano on the irrigation ditches with Eva's uncle, Fred Pion. The first son, **Gabriel Joseph**, was born on November 12, 1912. In 1913, Gabriel and Eva moved to Nordegg, where their first daughter, **Yvonne Alvina**, was born on July 8, 1914. Their second daughter, **Louise Anna** was also born there on March 9, 1916, and on October 31, 1918, their second son, **George Clovis**, was born. On November 7, 1918, their oldest daughter, Yvonne, died from the deadly flu. **Frank Louis** was born on July 23, 1926, and at the age of three months, became very ill with spinal meningitis. Following the doctor's orders, they left Nordegg when Frank was a year old, settling on a farm at Third Point, Honeymoon Bay, Sylvan Lake. Frank recovered, and after living there a year, they moved to the farm at Burnt Lake where Eva had lived as a girl. The farm at this time was owned by Frank X. Dallaire. During their stay there, Gabriel and Eva's daughter, **Irene Celina** was born on April 1, 1931.

In December, 1956, Gabriel Jean-Marie LeBihan died at the age of seventy-four, in Sylvan Lake, where he had retired after working in the Nordegg mines for thirty years.

Eva Celina LeBihan passed away in the Red Deer Auxiliary Hospital on March 31, 1969, after a lengthy illness.

It was at Burnt Lake School where Louise and George had most of their education. Frank also went to school there for his first year, his first teacher being Phyllis Stewart.

Gabriel Joseph completed school in Nordegg, and then attended Normal School in Camrose, between 1930 and 1931, receiving his teacher's certificate. When the family moved to Leslieville, Gabe taught school in the fall of 1936 at Blueberry Valley, then later at Veteran, and Three Creeks in the Peace River country. When war broke out, Gabe enlisted in the R.C.A.F. on July 20, 1941. After training in Canada, he received his wings, and went overseas, as a pilot, Flight Sergeant. He was killed in action over Essen, Germany.

On December 30, 1939, Louise Anna married John Pickering, second son of Robert Pickering, and they farmed on the quarter next to the Leafland School, Leslieville. While there, their first daughter, Mabel Yvonne was born on March 3, 1941. David John was

born on July 3, 1945 while they were at Sylvan Lake, for a year, with William Pickering, John's uncle.

Back at Leslieville, the youngest daughter, Myrna Elizabeth, was born on May 29, 1951.

The two oldest children attended school at Leslieville, until the year 1954, when John and Louise moved to Red Deer where John was employed by MacFarlane Brothers Dairy Farm. Then, in August, 1964, John began working for the Red Deer Public School District as a maintenance man, where he is presently employed.

After completing her schooling at Lindsay Thurber Composite High School, Mabel married Murray Pike on November 7, 1958. They have three children, Connie, thirteen, Sheldon, eleven, and Lorelei, five. They are at present living in Blackfalds while Murray is attending the Red Deer College, and Mabel is employed in Red Deer as a Lab. Technician.

David has been working for A.G.T. for the past nine years, after also attending L.T.C.H.S. On December 3, 1971, David married Sharlene VonHollen, and they are now living in Red Deer. Sharlene and David have a three-year-old daughter, Rhonda, and a son, Kelly, who is Sharlene's son from a previous marriage.

Myrna finished her grade twelve at L.T.C.H.S. and then attended Red Deer College, graduating from the University of Alberta in 1972 with a Bachelor of Arts in English. On June 4, 1972, she married Derrick Ironside, who also graduated from the University of Alberta in 1972 with a Bachelor of Science in Chemistry. Between 1972 and 1974, Derrick and Myrna taught African children in Malawi, Africa, as volunteers with Canadian University Services Overseas (C.U.S.O.). They are presently living in Red Deer where Derrick is employed by Williamson Manufacturing, and Myrna, by Alberta Hail and Crop Insurance Corporation.

Eva and Gabriel's second son, George also enlisted in the R.C.A.F. as an Air Force Mechanic. During his training in Toronto, he developed lung trouble, and was sent to Vulcan to recuperate. He then received his honorable discharge, and returned to Leslieville. On April 7, 1945, he married Edna Mottus, and they went to Whitehorse, later returning to farm at Eckville. There, Gale Louise was born on January 17, 1946, and on May 4, 1949, their son, Gabriel Hugo was born. After living at Banff, Calgary, Red Deer, and Drumheller, they are presently living in Edmonton where George is employed as a Steam Engineer for the Federal Department of Conservation and Environment.

Gale completed her schooling in Red Deer at L.T.C.H.S. and on December 26, 1965, she married Robert McCoy. They have one son, Michael, who is ten, and two daughters, Lisa, seven, and Tammy, six. Gale and Rob reside in Red Deer where Rob is employed by Cormac Auto Electric, and Gale by Civic Tire.

George and Edna's son, Gabe, received his degree in Civil Engineering at the University of Calgary, and on October 3, 1970, married Judi Barschel. They have a daughter, Nicole, who is twenty-two months old. Gabe and Judi are presently living in Grande Prairie where Gabe has his own Construction Business.

Gabriel and Eva's youngest son, Frank Louis farmed the home place at Leslieville until Eva had a stroke in May, 1964. Frank then sold the farm and they moved to Rocky Mountain House, where they were living when Eva

became very ill and was moved to the hospital in Red Deer, where she later died. Frank is still living in Rocky where he operates a trucking business: Frank's Trucking Service.

The youngest daughter, Irene, married Leslie McMeekin at Sylvan Lake on June 18, 1952. They lived in Leslieville, where they had a General store, later moving to Rocky Mountain House where Les still has a Caterpillar Construction business.

While in Rocky, Irene was employed by the Department of Fish and Game, and also worked as a telephone operator. Les and Irene had a son, Lorrie, born on December 29, 1955, and a daughter, Evvmarie, born on November 15, 1958. Lorrie now lives in Rocky where he is working for an Oil Company, and Irene and Evvmarie resides in Red Deer where they are both employed at Alberta School Hospital.

ERNEST W. LEWIS FAMILY

Ernest W. Lewis was born in England in 1880. In 1907 he came to Canada and was married in 1912. He was employed by Julian Sharman. In 1914 Mr. Lewis enlisted to serve overseas in the war of 1914-1918. He was wounded for the second time in Vimy Ridge and was badly gassed, something he suffered from for the rest of his life. Mr. and Mrs. Lewis came back to Canada in 1918 after Mr. Lewis received his discharge. He bought land through the Soldier Settlement Board in the Blackfalds area. In 1921 they had a fire in the house while they were out doing their chores and their little son, a boy of six years, was burned to death in the fire. They could not live on that farm anymore so they sold it and bought a farm in the Burnt Lake district, the NE 25-38-1-5.

Mr. Lewis was a member of the Canadian Legion, the Masonic Lodge and the Old Timers. Mrs. Lewis joined the Burnt Lake Women's Institute in the latter part of 1923 and was a very faithful member. She was secretary-treasurer from 1933 to 1936 until she went to England for a visit. She was an ardent war worker, doing a great deal of sewing, quilts, ditty bags, layettes for the Red Cross, etc. In the year 1943 the Institute turned in 439 articles of sewing and 521 articles of knitting. She came to the meetings driving her faithful old horse, always on time, and she didn't hesitate to let the rest of the members know of their short comings. Mrs. Lewis had a good voice and she entertained us on many occasions with one of her fine songs.

In 1943 they sold the farm to Swain Swainson and moved into Red Deer where they lived until their deaths. Mrs. Lewis died in 1951 and Mr. Lewis died in 1960 at the age of 80 years. Both are buried in the Red Deer Cemetery.

A. G. LINDHOLM — by Ellen Smith

Andrew Gustav Lindholm was born at Varmland, Sweden on December 25, 1855, and it was there that he received his schooling.

On November 19, 1879 he was married at Varmaskog, Sweden to Mathilda Johansson, who was born at Yllista, Sweden on May 19, 1854.

With a view to investigate the feasibility of locating there, my Dad made two visits to the United States and on one occasion, being there with his family for a period of five years, his son Charlie was born at New Britain,



A. G. Lindholm home — early 1900's.

Connecticut. But he returned to Sweden with the conviction that it was the best place to live. However, he subsequently met E. P. Cronquist, who had returned from the Burnt Lake area to take out his family, and so persuasive was Mr. Cronquist's assessment of the merits and possibilities of the new country, that my Dad decided to come and settle here.

When he got his first glimpse of this country in 1894, he wanted to take the first train back to Sweden, but his finances would not permit, and he obtained employment in Sam Long's harness and saddlery shop in Red Deer.

After taking a second look at the country, he decided to file on a homestead one mile south and two miles east of Snake (Sylvan Lake) being the NE 22-38-1-5. He then went to work at the Piper Brick yard in Red Deer, the wages being 50¢ a day. He bought three acres nearby with the intention of starting a brick yard of his own. However, he sold the land and returned to the homestead where he built a small cabin with a sod roof.

In May, 1895 his family arrived from Sweden. He then bought his first cow from a neighbor and worked all winter to pay for it. Some time later he borrowed \$100.00 from a kind neighbor and bought four more cows. To feed them during the winter months, he cut hay with a scythe and raked and stacked it with a pitch fork. He broke land for a garden with a grub hoe and shovel. His next purchase was a team of horses and small breaking plow, with which he managed to break a small piece of land, which he seeded to grain. When ready for harvest, he cut it with a scythe, tying the bundles with straw, and later threshing them with a homemade flail.

Shoes were quite a problem for the settlers at that time, and green hides were brought to my Dad, which he tanned and made into moccasins and shoes with wooden soles. He worked at night by light of his own making, consisting of a bottle of coal oil, with a metal tube pushed through the cork, in which a wick was inserted.

When selecting his homestead, his choice had been influenced by a big hill located on it, which he thought would be an ideal place to start a brick yard. He got his yard ready and made bricks the hard way — by hand. It was hard, dirty work but he eventually sold the bricks for 1¢ a piece.

All the settlers around Burnt Lake had flocks of sheep and wool could be bought cheaply. My mother

carded the wool, spun the yarn, and knitted mitts, socks and underwear for the family, as well as mitts and socks to sell.

The first Burnt Lake school, which the older children attended in 1896, was built of logs with a sod roof and was three and one-half miles south of Dad's homestead.

On the 24th of June was the annual picnic, in which everyone took part. The picnic was held on top of the high hill on Dad's homestead.

With dairy herds being built up by many of the settlers and no cream separators available, a means of removing the cream became a problem. Under government arrangements, at about the turn of the century, a skimming station was set up on NE 3-38-1-5, with a cream separator powered by a steam engine. Since my Dad was the only person in the district holding a steam engineer's certificate, he was placed in charge. The separator was set up close to a spring, where there was an abundant supply of water. The farmers brought their milk each morning to be separated. They took their skim milk home and sometimes cream to make their own butter. My dad delivered the cream to the Trimble Creamery near Red Deer leaving the skimming station at 5:00 p.m. and returning by midnight, receiving \$2.50 per trip.

Dad and Mother were deeply interested in the Mission Friends Church at Burnt Lake. Dad was one of four men who built the Church in 1907. Dad was Sunday School leader for 15 years or more. He was also active in establishing the Burnt Lake Cemetery. He devoted many hours in planting trees and shrubs around the Cemetery.

He operated the first steam engine in the district, doing custom grinding and also operated a saw and shingle mill. He also had the first steam threshing outfit in the district.

The first meeting of the Ladies' Aid was held at Mother's home. Mother was a very hospitable type of woman. After an illness of several months, she died on July 16, 1937. Dad followed her 22 months later in May, 1939 at the age of 83. Mother and Dad are both buried in the Burnt Lake Cemetery.

Their family of three sons and three daughters are as follows: **Linus Andrew** was born in Sweden on June 11, 1880 and was postmaster at Burnt Lake for a short time, prior to the Post Office being taken over by E. S. Grimson in 1908. Linus married Hannah Bergstrom and they went to Trail, British Columbia for a short time, then they



Mr. and Mrs. A. G. Lindholm about 1932.

moved to Revelstoke, British Columbia to make their home. They had four daughters. Irene, Laura, Edna and Aileen. Linus died June 6, 1962 and Hannah died in 1973. **Maria Charlotte** was born in Sweden in 1882. She married Axel Lindman (see Lindman history). **Carl (Charlie) Victor** was born in New Britain, Connecticut on August 24, 1887. He farmed for many years in the Burnt Lake district. He retired to Sylvan Lake in 1951. He died December 18, 1965 and is buried in the Burnt Lake Cemetery. **Frank Oscar** was born in Sweden in March 12, 1891. He married Thyra Svenson from Sweden. They had four sons. **Esther** was born in Sweden on September 12, 1893. She married Robert Hendrickson and they had two daughters, Lily and Rose. Esther died in March, 1946 and her husband died in November, 1956. Both are buried in the Sylvan Lake Cemetery.

I, Ellen, was born June 24, 1897 on the homestead. (see the Sandy Smith story).

FRANK LINDHOLM STORY

Frank Oscar Lindholm was born March 12, 1891, in Sweden. He came to the Burnt Lake district at the age of three (see A. G. Lindholm history). He was married to Thyra Svenson, who came from Sweden. They had a family of four boys. **Gordon**, born 1931, married Margerate (Peggy) Keith of Rimbey; **Arnold**, born 1933, married Jeannette Ushey of Swift Current, Saskatchewan; **Richard**, born 1941, married Beverly Tomalty of Red Deer; **Gregory**, born 1947, married Deanna Buckle of Edmonton. The family home in the Burnt Lake district was located on SE 27-38-1-5. The house was moved there from the old townsite of Stockholm where it had been built on family property. Frank broke his land with a steam engine and farmed here until he retired and moved to Sylvan Lake in 1963, where he lived until his death August 7, 1972. He is buried in the Burnt Lake cemetery. Thyra (Mrs. Rudy Schriber) is living in St. Albert, Alberta.

Life as he remembered it at the beginning of the century, and on down through the years in the Burnt Lake district, is told here by Frank Lindholm in an interview in the early 1960's with Anna Pope Jaminette for the Sylvan Lake News, from which these excerpts were taken by permission of a member of his family.

"We saw many Indians every day in the early years. They were camping nearby and would walk about the yard and go around the house and peek in all the windows. Every fall a big encampment of them would be around Burnt Lake. They would stay all winter to trap muskrats and hunt big game. Wild animals such as coyote, timber wolves, bears, deer, moose and lynx were plentiful.

It was my job to look after the cattle. For a long time I had to walk, but because of the wild animals, my father got me a saddle pony. One evening I started out on my pony to look for the cattle. I was riding along on a cow trail when I met a lynx. I got frightened and turned my pony around and started back on the trail, but I saw he was taking after me. I rode as fast as my horse could go, but the lynx gained on me. I turned back and bluffed him out, but I was still scared. There were no fences anywhere and the land was all open range and sometimes the cattle would wander three or four miles from home, out through that thick bush, and it was hard to find them.

One day my brother Carl and I started out walking to look for the cattle. I was about six years old. We came to a big slough which was about 200 feet across. We decided we would undress and walk across it. I was the first one to jump in. I didn't realize how deep the water was, but I kept going, and to this day I don't know how I got through the water — if I floated across or walked on the bottom, I don't know. Afterwards my father measured the water in the slough and found it was 12 feet deep.

When I was seven I went to split some wood, but soon found when I chopped off the ends of two fingers that the axe was a little too big for me. I went in the house to show my mother what had happened and at once my sister said she would go out and find the ends of my fingers. I told her it was no use to go, for the old rooster had already picked them up. There was no doctor near. My father took some white strips of cloth, and using pine tar for ointment, he bound my fingers up and they healed in no time.

A lot of new settlers were coming in at that time and were homesteading on the north side of Burnt Lake. They all built good log houses, but some of them used straw to cover the roof. Rye straw was used, and it was laid like shingles. Most of those early settlers made their own wagons. They were neatly mortised together, not a bolt, nail nor piece of iron was used. Every part was wood. Some had a horse and bull hitched up for a team, some a bull and a cow, some a horse and a cow. The squeak of those homemade wagons could be heard a mile away.

C.P.R. land could be bought cheap in those years. My father bought 211 acres from them and paid \$3.00 an acre. He kept it two years and sold it to Mr. Nothall for \$6.00 an acre. He kept it for two months and sold it to Dr. Tanche for \$12.00 an acre.

In 1906 my brother Carl homesteaded at Evergreen. In 1909 I filed on a homestead that was near my brother at Evergreen. Later we sold the homesteads and bought the land we now own south of Sylvan Lake. My oldest brother Linus, who lives in British Columbia, homesteaded the farm now owned by Mrs. Cuendet, SW 34-38-1-5. He traded the homestead to a Mr. Stinson for the store and post office at Burnt Lake.

In 1907 my father bought a small steam engine, which he used to grind grain for the farmers to feed their hogs. He also ground loads of rye flour with it; the rye had to be put through the grinder several times to get it fine enough.

I was a very small boy when the first threshing outfit came in to the Burnt Lake district., but I remember the 18 horses that supplied the power, and I remember my father and other settlers re-telling many times about the separator. I know it was without a self-feeder and straw blower. The second threshing outfit that came into the district was owned by a man named Lind. It was a little more up-to-date. Its power was a portable steam engine, but it had the same kind of separator as the first thresher. Twine on the bundles had to be cut by hand with a knife. Straw was taken away from the back of the separator with a slide which carried it about 10 feet high to where the straw was stacked. From there it had to be moved away with a pitch fork.

I was ten years old when I was asked by a neighbor to help him thresh. I got the job to use the pitch fork and take that straw away from the separator. It was hard dir-

ty work for a small boy. The separator had no belts, it was chain driven. I had to be careful not to get near them or I would get caught in those chains. But it so happened one cold day, that Carl Hallstrand, the separator man, got the heavy sheepskin coat he was wearing, tangled up in those chains. That caused a lot of excitement, everyone was running around and all yelling at the same time, "stop the machine, stop the machine". After they got him loose the machine was started again, and they were just nicely back at work, when for some unknown reason, Carl climbed up on top of the separator and jumped in the straw slide and it doubled all up in a heap.

In 1913 my father bought a steam threshing outfit. He threshed for all the farmers in the district and the run was usually from 40 to 60 days. The first years it was all stack threshing. Some years winter started in early with deep snow and cold weather, but that didn't stop my father. With Carl and I to help him, we were on the job in all kinds of weather for 20 seasons. In 1913 we bought a sawmill together, moved it from place to place and sawed lumber for the farmers. I have yet, the machinery of the old sawmill, and when I retire from farming and have nothing else to do, I plan as a hobby to put it all together and get it running again.

The first car my father bought was a 1917 Model "T" Ford. He used it for a number of years, then traded it to Jack Bardwell for a 1921 model Briscoe, which was advertised as the car with the million dollar motor. It was first bought new by the late Carl Jaminette. My father used it for several years, then took the motor out and fixed it up to run a wood saw. For 20 years it has been used to saw wood, and is still in good running order, and has lived up to its advertising.

The 24th of June each year was a real holiday that everyone took part in. A place was selected on top of the big hill on the Lindholm homestead, for a picnic ground. Each year my father would work for two weeks before time for the picnic, getting the grounds ready, by making swings, a merry-go-round. A big long table with small trees set up all around it made a dining hall. The Canadian flag was always raised to the top of a tall flag pole. That flag is still in the best of condition and is kept as a keep-sake in memory of those days."

L. RICHARD AND BEVERLEY LINDHOLM

L. Richard was born February 11, 1941 while his parents, Frank and Thyra Lindholm, lived in the Burnt Lake community. He took his schooling in Sylvan Lake.

Richard and Beverley E. Tomalty were married in Red Deer, April 24, 1961 at the United Church. Bev is a daughter of Elmer and Flora Tomalty who farmed east of Red Deer. Richard and Bev have two children, **Lynette Marie** and **Randall (Randy) Vaughn**. (**Randy Vaughn**.)

In 1968 they came to Burnt Lake to live on a subdivision of the Frank Lindholm farm, SE 27-38-1-5. They remodelled the house and lived here until moving to Red Deer in November, 1971. Bev was a member of the Women's Institute and Richard helped with the installation of the gas furnace in the Community Centre. The family is presently living in Edmonton.

AXEL LINDMAN AND FAMILY HISTORY by OLGA THOMPSON

It was the 27th of April, 1875, that Axel John Lindman made his appearance at Soderola Gefleborgslan in Sweden. His original surname was Halstrand, but as his mother died when he was seven, he was placed in the home of a family named Lindman, and that is the name he adopted.

Since Sweden is largely a timber country, he began to work in the woods at a very early age at a charcoal kiln. In those days neither stainless steel nor even the tin plated cutlery were used in bush camps; so the first night in camp was generally spent whittling a spoon or similar tools out of birch wood, which each woodsman would use to eat with for the rest of the winter.

Schooling consisted of reading, writing, and arithmetic, to be learned when time permitted, until it was possible to read the Catechism and pass confirmation classes.

As with all our pioneers, it was that promised land across the ocean that called. On February 3, 1893, Axel boarded a steamship at Goteberg for America, arriving at Boston, Massachusetts on February 22.

Over the next six or seven years he worked as a farm laborer in the summers and in lumber camps in winter in Wisconsin, Minnesota, and North Dakota, part time as a cook's helper.

About 1900, he came to Alberta, taking up a homestead, NW 10-39-1-5, north of the Sylvan Lake outlet. While building himself a cabin and getting a bit of clearing done, he stayed at the Loisselle home, where the town of Sylvan Lake is now situated.

Axel's father, Charles Halstrand, also took up a homestead. It was on the northwest side of Burnt Lake along where the outlet from Sylvan Lake flowed into Burnt Lake, NE 34-38-1-5. He went back to Wisconsin about 1903 so that the youngest daughter, Tillie, could get an education.

One spring day as Axel was crossing the lake toward his homestead with a brand new doublebitted axe, the ice, honeycombed with the spring thaw, gave way under him. He was close enough to the shore that the water was only five feet in depth. His first impulse was to get out, and once out he realized that he had dropped the axe. Another axe was not easy to obtain, so he went back into the hole in the ice and retrieved his lost treasure.

Axel worked on the homestead in the summer and went to work in the coal mines at Anthracite and Canmore in the winter. He kept the homestead long enough to prove up on it, and then traded it for a mare and a colt. In the meanwhile he purchased a quarter of C.P.R. land NE 23-38-1-5, where he subsequently made his home.

On May 28, 1903 he was united in marriage to Maria Charlotte Lindholm at the Indian Industrial School west of Red Deer. She had come from Sweden with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. A. G. Lindholm, to this district in 1895. It was their third time across the Atlantic. They came first to Connecticut in 1885, returning to Sweden in 1890, and last of all to the Burnt Lake district where they lived the rest of their lives.

Mary, as she was known, attended school at Swan Lake (later known as Burnt Lake). Miss Lizzie Martin, later Mrs. Reay, was her teacher.

When Mary Charlotte was about 15, she "hired out" to help a neighbor plant potatoes. She went early and arrived before the cow had been milked, so was given that as a first task. Then the breakfast dishes had to be done up. After the potatoes were all safely planted, she was paid with two hen eggs and went on her way home.

She also worked as a domestic servant to a doctor's family in Red Deer for several months in 1901. There were five children in Dr. Denoven's family. There was no milk delivery in those days so the doctor kept two Jersey cows that the maid was expected to take entire care of (feed, water and clean barn). She also had to do the janitor work in the doctor's office up town, do the baking, laundry, etc. for the sum of \$10.00 per month.

Shortly after they were married, Axel worked for a time at the stone quarry at the Cronquist place in West Park. He was keenly interested in progress and served as Councillor for the Local Improvement District for a time. He was chairman of the first school board of the Norma School District, with Mr. Glover being the first teacher, followed by Miss Sadie Fulmer. He hauled lumber and helped with the construction of the Mission Covenant Church at Burnt Lake. He was on the first board of directors when the U.F.A. Local was organized in 1908.

The C.P.R. quarter was heavily wooded with poplar and willow which he cleared by hand and broke most of it with horses. On one occasion when he was breaking with rather lanky cayuses, Louis Loisselle happened along. He said he would bring his oxen over and help him. However, when the heel flies attacked, the oxen didn't hold to the furrow, but made for the closest clump of willows where it took the better part of the day to free them and the plow.

Ruth's earliest recollections are when Mother and Dad and the three oldest girls lived in a little two roomed log house, with an attic for storage and of course, a cellar which seemed to always have vegetables and fruit in it. The wood box beside a small cook stove held the fuel supply. On top of it was the water supply in two pails. The walls were plastered with mud and whitewashed. The ceiling covered with heavy building paper was finished with blue Kalsomine. The floors never had any covering nor even paint but were always scrubbed white.

We never remember a time but that we had milk cows, hens and pigs so that kept us in meat, milk, butter and eggs. We were content and happy. We had never known anything better until 1913 when a much bigger frame house was built.

When the C.P. Railway pushed westward in 1910-12, Axel worked on the building of the grade on that section of C.P.R. right-of-way that passed over part of his property. The grade was constructed with elevator graders, dump wagons, and slips drawn by horses and mules. Some of the other workmen with families, Elof Holmgren and Chris Rasmussen, lived in their yard while the main camp was situated about three-fourths of a mile west. Mrs. Lindman supplied the camp with milk, butter and eggs.

When Axel was going to work on the railroad, he needed a bigger team of horses, so he bought a nice looking team at a sale for \$400.00. They were decked up with good harnesses and all the trimmings, but when he put them to work they were not fit. One was windbroke and

the other had to be destroyed almost right away, so they were of no use to him.

After the railway was completed, many unemployed who did not have money for fare to ride the passenger car, would walk along the railway track (it was much better walking than on the roads) from Red Deer to the villages along the way in search of seasonal employment. Many such travellers sought food at the Lindman home and were never turned away. If night was approaching there was always a place where a bed could be improvised. Anyone who entered would always be made welcome.

After some three and a half years of residence in the frame house another daughter arrived and three years later the one and only son.

In those days, the roads were only trails and again. Ruth recalls the memory of her first car ride. A family, Jules Armeneau, who had lived near us and moved to Saskatchewan came back to visit in 1917. They took the three oldest girls to Red Deer in the Ford with flapping curtains. On the floor at our feet were the tire pump and other tools required to keep it running. It was a real thrill to travel so fast — maybe 25 m.p.h. and all the horses were terrified of the strange black monster racing by.

In 1918 we rejoiced to hear that the war was over and the soldiers were coming home, but a terrible epidemic, the Spanish influenza, swept over the country. The schools were closed and public gatherings were forbidden and many died.

In the early 1930's the horse and buggy was still the mode of transportation for the Lindmans. One fine autumn day, Mother and Olga were going to Sylvan Lake, so John was summoned to take in the usual horse (which was severely affected with heaves). John had been accustomed to give the horse a dose of Fowler's solution to relieve her breathing when working in the field. This day was no exception. He gave her the usual dose. All went well to town but when they started home with Olga driving, the horse was doped up to the point she took off in a runaway. Mother too, got on the reins, and one rein broke, steering the horse for an instant toward the ditch, the singletree snapped, the horse was free, Mother was sitting on the ground where the horse had been. The horse stopped a short distance away. Soon repairs were made and no one was any worse for the excitement.



Axel Lindman Family — 1943. Back — Olga, Ruth, Florence and Esther. Front — Axel, John, and Mary Charlotte.

Mother and Dad never moved from the old home. Dad passed away in 1946. Mother lived alone for many years after that with John and his wife, living nearby. When she was not able to manage alone, she went to stay with the youngest daughter where she passed away in 1967. Both Axel and Mary are buried in the Sylvan Lake Cemetery.

The family consisted of **Esther** who married August Knoepfli in 1926. **Ruth** Lindman is in evangelistic work and works in many parts of Alberta. She has a teaching certificate and taught for a few years. **Florence** married Carl Anderson in 1929. They made their home in the Shady Nook district. **Olga** married Sidney Thompson in 1944. They live in the Bentley district. Their two children, Joyce and David are both married. **John** married Molly Frisch in 1942. John and Molly live on the old farm where we were all born and brought up.

Axel and Mary Charlotte's descendants are five children, ten grandchildren, twenty-three great-grandchildren and three great-great-grandchildren.

JOHN AXEL AND MOLLY LINDMAN

John was born in 1919 and we are living on the farm where he was born and grew up — NE 23-38-1-W5. He has four sisters. We built our home just a few yards to the west of the family home (see the Axel Lindman story).

Of his formative years his mother often remarked, "He wished he lived in a land where there was no night," and this did become his way of life as he added so much of that part of the day to his work.

He attended school at Sylvan Lake and was a busy boy in extra activities. He worked on the threshing crew at the age of 13, and at road building at a young age, when compared with today's standards. He recalls, when at 15, he put in 52 days threshing one fall. His wages were \$3.50 per day for man and team. They ended up pulling in the sheaves on sleighs. In 1934, while on the road crew, he remembers a cyclone approaching from the Marianne district, but it by-passed and hit Sylvan Lake, doing damage there.

Life wasn't all work. He enjoyed taking part in the local Agricultural Fairs at Sylvan Lake and Red Deer. In 1934 he won a Short Course to the Olds Agricultural College, and in 1937 was proud to win ribbons for his favorite team of horses, Bill and King, in a Conformation and Performance Class. In the early thirties he won the Provincial Prize for collecting the most magpie and crow eggs and legs.

He remembers many humorous experiences. Once, when accompanied by Andy Norby, they had an exciting time putting out a fire, which they had started to brew some tea. Another time, Andy jumped a creek, followed by John, who grasped the same twig; it snapped and he fell in backwards. But that didn't phase him. He shed his fleece-lined underwear, hung it over a bush to dry and carried on.

Recreation in those early days was self-made. John and the Norby boys would improvise their own stampedes, and would break steers to ride and drive. Animals were sometimes kept until they were five years old because they were worthless on the market. Playing checkers and listening to early radio were other pastimes.

Many happenings on our road can be reminisced about. John remembers one time when a travelling

clothing salesman got stuck on the way east to the Farmer place. He came for help, so John unhooked the lead team from the plow, hooked onto the wagon, and went with him. The horses were unfamiliar with motor vehicles. When ready for the pull, the salesman, thinking he'd help, started the motor. It was an instant runaway. Can't you just see two horses and a wagon going full pelt down the road, pulling a brand new Model A Ford behind, and backwards too. John was amply rewarded with 35¢.

John loves to work with animals and the land, so becoming a farmer was a natural.

In 1941, he was called to serve the 30 day Canadian Army training Programme which was held in Red Deer.

I (Molly) was born in 1921 at Hilda in south east Alberta. My parents, Mr. and Mrs. R. Frisch, lived in the Pine Hill district at the time of our marriage (see the R. Frisch story). I received my schooling at the Coal Centre school in the Norton district, south east of Medicine Hat. It was a small country school, with a roll call of 14. We went four and a half miles across the prairies to get there. The Christmas concerts there were a highlight for us kids, as that was the only Christmas tree we saw, and the only gifts we got were there — so that was Christmas. I remember that Mom would spend long hours by coal oil light, sewing up new outfits for us for the occasion. She made everything for us from coats on down. The picnics too were great; homemade ice cream was a real treat.

I remember the depression there. We kids got to the city about once a year. We were given 10 or 15 cents, and had a good time looking for something to buy with it. Getting into Medicine Hat from the bleak countryside was like Paradise. The green lawns, lush gardens, and water sprinklers were really impressive. My parents and family left the prairies in 1937. Due to the circumstances of that era, my schooling ended when we left there.

I worked out, and in 1942 was employed by Mrs. Bill Silverberg. I enjoyed the trips on the mail route east and west of Red Deer when my assistance was required.

John and I were married in 1942. Our wedding day was October 28, at the Burnt Lake Baptist Church. It was an evening wedding, and the minister, Rev. J. E. Williamson was two hours late for the ceremony as he was caught in a blizzard at Olds. We had six inches of snow here. We will always appreciate how our Burnt Lake friends and neighbours waited with us. The threshing didn't get done that fall, and it was a bitterly cold winter with lots of snow.

I became proficient at every operation in our farming enterprise. There was always a niche for me to fill. Our two children, **Murray**, born in 1947, and **Doris**, born in 1951, grew up through it all, lending their support in many ways. We also had many hired hands. We milked 27 cows by hand during the first years, and shipped the milk to the Red Deer Condensery. We raised calves and fed pigs, going through a rhinitis outbreak in 1946 when we had a herd of about 400. We kept chickens in a big way, "for then", and even raised sheep in the fifties, but the coyotes enjoyed chicken and lamb, so we phased out after giving each a few year's try. Burnt Lake is great coyote country. We grew grain and rented land in various parts of this district through the years, and bought some neighbouring land.



A stationary baler.

We put up acres of hay on Burnt Lake. We couldn't feed all of it some years, so we sold it for cash, traded it for machinery, and supplied lumber camps in exchange for lumber, which in turn was sold or traded.

John's hay and baling beginnings occurred when he was working for Herb Welton during the winter of 1935-36. The hay was shipped to the drought stricken prairies. His wages were \$1.00 per day, good for then. He later bought Welton's baler for \$35.00. In our early farming years, the hay was baled out of stacks. John wore out seven balers. He did custom baling too, and bought hay at times when he had orders for it. He bought his first pull-type baler in 1947. In 1948 he shipped 1030 tons to British Columbia for the Fraser Valley Rehabilitation, a project sponsored by the B.C. provincial government. There had been a flood in that area. Thirteen carloads at one time were shipped to Cochrane for Copithorne Ranches in 1951.

Our land on the edge of Burnt Lake provided good pasture. We tired of milking cows periodically, but we always had cattle. John's natural veterinary ability was a great asset to our own enterprise, and through the years he shared his time unstintingly in this respect with his neighbors.

We went through the Foot and Mouth outbreak scare in 1952 when prices dropped from 51¢ the previous year, to 11-18¢ per pound. Prices are just as bad now again in 1976.

John also had a Livestock Dealer's licence, buying, selling, and trucking throughout the area.

From baling hay we advanced to silage making, and then to stacking again in 1964. We used a stack mover to haul the stacks; it was also used to feed from in the winter. For us, farming progressed from horsepower to modern diesel tractor.

In harvesting grain, we went from binder to swather, and from threshing machine to combine. The old fashioned threshing days are often recalled. With a crew of men around, there was usually a happening. One we remember happened when Louie Ivarson, helping here at the time, had a runaway with a skittish team which he offered to drive, boasting that he'd never had a runaway. The forks were on his rack, so he pitched them onto the ground, jumped off to carry them to the machine, and away went his outfit. He took off to follow them, and caught the rack. On grabbing the reins, one dropped, so he attempted to climb over the front end of the rack to get down to retrieve it. When he was set on the top most

part of the rack front, the wagon tongue unloosened. It catapulted, and sent Louie up in the air about 20 feet. John and another fellow had followed along in the truck and could see him over above the trees on the other side. Anyway, Louie came down and fell flat on the ground. Everyone thought he was dead for sure, but they soon saw him high-tailing it after the team again. The horses were finally caught a mile and a half away, by Oscar Johanson's.

John usually had something other than farming going to subsidize the income and meet the bills. In the middle forties, he trapped enough muskrats on Burnt Lake to buy and pay for 35 acres of land. Prime pelts netted \$3.50 a piece. For 16 years we kept some forty head of horses for the Sylvan Lake Riding Academy, owned by Leonard Day of Edmonton. We also had 4 donkeys; one of their babies was born here.

In the late fifties, John had a Machinery Dealer's licence. He bought second hand farm machines from the U.S.A. and resold them here. He always did various custom work.

In 1967, "Canada's Centennial Year", we had our last good crop. The barley yielded 90 bushels per acre. It was harvested with not a drop of rain on it, and, when sold, graded 1 C.W., which we didn't think would ever occur in this country. The next year was as bad as the other was good. It rained so much in the fall that John had to go out to harvest after the ground was frozen at night, in the late season. A lot of the crop stayed out over the winter. The mice took their toll, so it had to be burned the next spring. What was threshed the fall before grew a mould, and many farmers became ill from handling it.

We gave up our rented land in 1971. In 1972 we had a terrific hail storm here, so we cut our crop for feed. We sold out our cattle completely in 1974, and are now renting out the land.

Community wise we have given of our time as best we could. John has been on the Burnt Lake Drainage Board since 1947. The year 1975 saw the fruitful results; a ditch was put through from Burnt Lake to the Red Deer River.

He helped at one time to organize a Credit Union at Burnt Lake, which is now part of the Parkland Savings and Credit Union, Red Deer.



John Lindman Family — 1968. Back — Murray, Doris. Front — Molly, John.

He was a founding member of the Red Deer Feeder's Association, and served actively on the Sylvan Lake Curling Club and Arena Building Committees.

He served as President of the Burnt Lake local F.U.A. and Community Centre, and is a member of the session of the Memorial Presbyterian Church, Sylvan Lake.

John is keen on curling, and we both enjoy camping and rodeos. At one time John owned a chariot team. He took a championship at Innisfail in 1967, and another time placed fourth at the Red Deer Fair, among sixty competitors.

I have served as President of the Burnt Lake F.W.U.A. and W.I., and enjoy being in the church choir.

John and I enjoy living in the Burnt Lake district. This farm has been in the family since the turn of the century. When John's parents came, they found many buffalo skulls and arrowheads, and spoke of fishing in Burnt Lake.

Our two children are both married. Murray married Edith Anne MacDonald from Laggan, Ontario. They are both in the teaching profession. Doris married Barry Paulson of Edmonton; they live in Calgary. Doris is continuing her studies at the University of Calgary, and Barry is the Principal at Carsland School. We have two grandchildren, Richard Lee and Kathy Anne Paulson.

THE GUSTAV LINDSTROM FAMILY

Gustav (Gus) and Clara Lindstrom and small daughter Benta, one year old, came from Ute land, Denmark in the spring of 1953. Gus always had a desire to come to Canada and at that time, immigration was at a peak. They came by ship, leaving Denmark February 26, Clara's 24th birthday, and landed at Halifax, coming by train to Lacombe on March 15. They were met there by a farmer from Clive who was their sponsor. They didn't speak any English and had very little money or possessions. Clara brought a sewing machine that carried as a suitcase, which was very useful to her for many years. Clara remembers how she felt when there seemed to her to be so few people around Clive, compared to what they were used to in Denmark. She said she was almost afraid.

They stayed on the farm at Clive for half a year, then moved to a farm south of Blackfalds and worked for Hank McLennon for six months. From there they went to live in Red Deer where Gus worked on construction at the Chrysler Plant, for wages of \$1.00 per hour. They lived in an old house, quite a small one, and a cousin to Gus stayed with them so they were quite crowded. When work slowed down, there was a job available on Mel Leonard's mink ranch south of Blackfalds, along the Blindman River. The family moved into a cabin close by. It was situated on a beautiful spot along the river. Gus worked there for about two years during which time he purchased the acreage, part of NW 14-38-1-5 in the Burnt Lake district in 1956. It was bought from Ken Anderson, a land speculator, of Innisfail who had bought the property from Ed Tierle.

The Lindstroms have always raised hogs here, and have also had cattle and sheep. At one time they milked cows and did some farming when they had the quarter of land rented from Mrs. E. Gronnestad, SE 22-38-1-5, for a number of years in the late sixties.

In 1962 their oldest daughter **Benta** died accidentally on the farm at the age of ten. The family had a visit from Gus' father, Jens Lindstrom from Uteland, Denmark that year. He was 72 years old then and came by plane to Calgary and stayed with Gus and Clara six weeks. Gus's mother, Mrs. Main Lindstrom passed away when he was nine years old. Gus is the oldest in the family. Gus's grandfather came from Sweden to Denmark when he was 17 or 18 years old. Both Gus and Clara were born and raised in Uteland and received their schooling there. Clara is the youngest of the family of Mr. Kristen and Anna Morgenson. Clara's mother visited them in Canada in 1974 when she was 84 years old. She came by plane to Edmonton June 19 and stayed six weeks. The space here impressed her so much as Clara says the distance across Denmark is only 200 miles.

Gus and Clara were married in Uteland, Denmark in 1950, and they celebrated their 25th anniversary in May 1975 having a supper and social in the Ridgewood Hall.

Gus has been doing construction work for the most part in the Red Deer area. In 1974 Gus and a business partner incorporated LINWAL Construction in Red Deer. In 1976 Gus sold out his part of the business. Gus enjoys fishing and Clara likes gardening and flowers, also working with the dogs. They are raising greyhounds, which are bred for racing and hunting.

They have three children born here in Canada and while living in this area. **John** (Johnnie) was born in 1957. He will complete a course in Electrical Engineering at the Technical School in Calgary next year (1977). **Donna** was born in 1959. She is in grade eleven and **Lisa** born in 1965 is in grade six. The Lindstroms think Canada is a great country.

FRANK LIVINGSTONE

Frank Livingstone, his wife Ruth and children **Sandra, James, Brian** and **Susan** moved to Burnt Lake to the NE 25-37-1-5 in 1954. The children attended Shady Nook school later going by bus to River Glen school in Red Deer. In 1960 the Livingstones sold out and moved to Red Deer when Wm. Horne bought the land.

Later Longhursts lived on an acreage of this quarter and it is presently (1976) occupied by Jim Davis and family.

HANSERHARD LUND — by Alice Lund

Burnt Lake was at one time the Cross Roads for many people. When the railroad stopped in Red Deer, the freighters from the west would use the Burnt Lake Trail and stop at the Mattson Stopping House in Burnt Lake. One such freighter was Hans Lund, who came from Sweden in 1903 to a place called Pitcox. This name was later changed to Hespero.

Mr. Lund used oxen for freighting and also for breaking land. In 1906 it was a wet year, and the freighters to the west had to cross the river at Evarts as the bridge was not safe. Mr. Lund and another man by the name of Mr. Nagel, while attempting to ford the river, had the misfortune to drown some of their livestock. After this mishap Mr. Lund took on the mail and stagecoach driving from Red Deer to Evarts. He drove bronco horses as they seemed to stand it better than the quiet horses, and of course Burnt Lake was the stop-over and distribution point for a very large area.

Mr. Lund told about working oxen. He never needed a watch because when it was quitting time the oxen took off for home by the shortest route, regardless of how deep the water or how thick the brush. The same thing applied when the flies got bad.

Always on the long trips to Red Deer for supplies, the big stopping house of Mattson's at Burnt Lake was a welcome haven for the weary traveller.

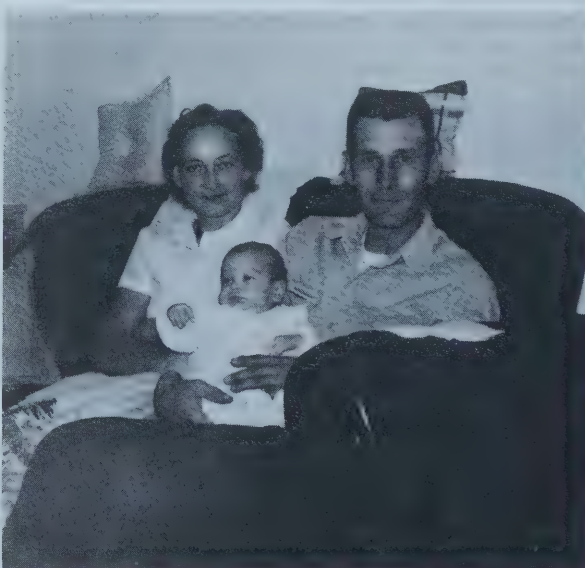
JOHN AND ESTHER MARCINEK

John's parents came to Detroit, Michigan, U.S.A. from Poland, in their early teens. At the age of thirteen John's mother was employed by Henry Ford, inventor of the Ford car and founder of the Ford Motor Company. She helped cook and keep house for the Ford family for three years. John's father was a baker by trade.

John's parents were married in Detroit and lived in the United States for seven years. During this time three daughters were born to Catherine and John Marcinek. The family returned to Poland and resided there for seven years. Three sons and one daughter were born in Poland. They moved to Alsask, Saskatchewan in 1928, here they, along with many other families, suffered through the dirty, dusty, drought-stricken depression years. It was during this time that John was born. In 1935, after seven years of hardship, they moved to Condor, Alberta, to what they thought was God's country. They could at least raise a garden. The first year, nearly an acre was planted in the hopes of getting enough to do for the winter. Needless to say they had somewhat of a surplus of food and had to build a root cellar to store the bumper crop.

John first started work at the age of fourteen on a threshing crew. He worked for three years as a logger and cat skinner on Vancouver Island but his main occupation is farming.

Esther's parents came to Canada from Poland in 1913 and were married in Margo, Saskatchewan in 1915. Three daughters and one son were born to Wanda and Rudolph Ziola. Esther was born during the depression years at Wadena, Saskatchewan. The family farmed at



John Marcinek Family — 1963. Esther, John and son Murray.

Lintlaw, Saskatchewan for 35 years. In 1946 they purchased a farm at Condor, Alberta, where Esther's brother now resides. Esther took her schooling at Condor and then at Lindsay Thurber Composite High School in Red Deer. Her parents retired and moved to Red Deer in 1950.

John and Esther were married at Condor on September 26, 1952. They farmed east of Innisfail for two years, spent one year on Vancouver Island and farmed for a few years at Condor. In July of 1959 they purchased the NW 27-37-1-5 in the Burnt Lake district from Earl Dick. Their son **Murray Dean** was born in 1963. They enjoyed curling and many social evenings with friends.

In 1964 they purchased their present farm located nine miles west of Ponoka on Highway 53. In 1965 **Loree Ann** was born.

Esther's main interest has always been music and she enjoys playing the piano, guitar or accordion at various functions, locally and in town. Every now and then, with the help of others she entertains shut-ins at nursing homes, senior citizens lodges and hospitals. She also likes to help with the local Christmas concert or organize a small choir, dance drill or anything creative. For the past two years she has enjoyed being a member of a dance band.

For the past few years John has been a member of the Lion's Club and Moose Lodge and they also belong to the local community club and enjoy working for these organizations.

THE GEORGE MATEJKA FAMILY

George and Yvonne Matejka bought the acreage on the NE 15-38-1-5 from Bill Schreuder in December 1973.

George was born, raised and had lived on a farm in the Ponoka area which his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Albert Matejka, had purchased shortly after coming to Canada from Czechoslovakia in 1920. George, in partnership with his brothers and dad built up a registered herd of Horned Hereford Cattle, Yorkshire Swine, and Suffolk Sheep. They exhibited at many livestock shows.



George Matejka Family — 1977. Back — Louise, Steven, Tony. Front — George, Nancy, Yvonne.

In 1959 he married Yvonne Martin, a Ponoka girl, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Martin. Their four children were born in Ponoka. **Steven** 1960, **Tony** 1961, **Louise** 1963 and **Nancy** 1971. They all attend school at Sylvan Lake and are active in curling, hockey, 4-H and Girl Guides.

The Matejkas raise purebred Yorkshire swine and are widely known in Canadian Swine shows and sales. They have sold hogs to Russia, Korea and El Salvador. George has judged Swine Shows in Toronto, Regina and Alberta.

The swine operation in Burnt Lake is fully modern, having its own feed mill and automatic feeding system. The one hundred sow, farrow to finish unit can readily be handled by the family.

MR. AND MRS. MATTEUS MATTSO

Mr. Matteus Mattson was born in Wilhelmina, Sweden in 1852. He immigrated to Canada first to Ontario and later to Alberta homesteading in 1898 on NE 2-38-1-5 in the Burnt Lake district. Mrs. Martha B. Mattson was born in Sweden in 1867 and came to Canada with friends, later marrying Mr. Mattson.



Mr. and Mrs. Mattson and Carl Engman — 1926.

They also lived for a time in the Marianne district, then kept a stopping house for travellers and freighters in the town of Stockholm on the Burnt Lake Trail. They later moved to their permanent residence, NE 3-38-1-5, still in the old town site of Stockholm. They boarded many of the teachers who taught in the district.

Mr. Mattson died February 20, 1927, aged 74 years and Mrs. Mattson followed on October 10, 1929. Both are buried in the Burnt Lake Cemetery.

ARCHIE McVICOR

In the late 1920's Archie McVicar bought the NW 15-38-1-5 from **Yeoman**, who had purchased this quarter from the C.P.R. Yeoman and his son had lived here for a short time. Archie McVicar was a bachelor before he married a registered nurse. He hauled timber to Sylvan Lake and shipped car loads to Saskatchewan, where he had come from. It was very hard work but a lucrative business. His wife attended Mrs. John Smith when Harold (Sam) was born as there wasn't time to get her to a doctor.

The land was bought by Carl Johanson about 1929 and the buildings moved to Carl's building site to the north. All that remains of McVicar's yardsite is a row of tall spruce. When Carl Johanson heard the McVicar place was for sale, he walked into Red Deer to make the transaction.

ANDREW MELSTROM

Andrew Melstrom was a relative of the Telning family, and for about two years during the first ten years of the century, lived on the NE 36-37-1-5 where Andrew Nyberg had homesteaded. The building site was on a high knoll in the extreme northeast corner of the quarter. He lived for a time in the hotel in the town of Stockholm before settling in Red Deer where he went into the real estate business.

During some of these years he was sheriff or sheriff's assistant, and had some unpleasant experiences reclaiming property that had been sold without legal ownership being established.

One day while visiting the Njorder Andersons in the Marianne district he suffered a heart attack and died.

THOMAS BURGESS MILLAR

Thomas Burgess Millar was born on April 3, 1864 in Burgoyne, Ontario. As a teenager, he worked in dairies, on farms and in orchards. When he was a young man he learned the trade of cheese maker, and became one of the best in the business. He was appointed Inspector of Cheese Factories in Northern Ontario, by the Government and was a member and later president of the Dairymen's Association of Ontario. He was on the staff of the Guelph Agricultural College as head of the Dairy Section and was known as "Professor Millar", a term he disliked. He was a very good judge of dairy products and also of dairy cattle.

He married Marian Adeline Jessie Wickham and had two sons, **Charles Escotte**, born March 1, 1902 and **James Kennedy**, born October 8, 1903.

For a time Mr. Millar became confidential buying agent for W. P. Sinclair and Co. of Liverpool, England. They were the largest importers of Canadian cheese in England.

Doctors had advised that Mrs. Millar's health would probably be better in a higher altitude, so with that in mind and also the dream of having land where he and his two sons could farm together, the family made plans to move to Alberta. Land for homesteads was being opened up and literature sent east presented Alberta in glowing colors. At that time, Mr. Millar had a brother in Lacombe, Alberta and Mrs. Millar had a brother who was an Inspector in the North West Mounted Police in Southern Alberta. In the latter part of March, 1906 they shipped two car loads of settler's effects to Lacombe. They settled in the Brookfield district, east of Lacombe and had a house, barn and small cheese factory built. His "Beaver Brand" cheese became well known in Alberta.

The winter of 1906-1907 was particularly severe, and with the loss of several cattle, Mr. Millar decided to move. He was told that west of Red Deer the homesteaders milked cows and hauled their cream to Red Deer. He came to Burnt Lake to size up the prospects of building a cheese factory, and in May 1907 they arrived. They built a cheese factory, barn and small



Old style cream cans — wooden barrel lined with metal — exhibited by Naomi Johanson and Annie Davis.

hen house on the north side of what is now the Burnt Lake Trail. Mrs. Millar taught for awhile at Burnt Lake and also opened a night school without any remuneration to help older people who wished to further their education. Mr. Millar was Postmaster there for a short while.

In 1908 Mr. Millar built another cheese factory at Old Eckville on the Medicine River and in 1909 he built still another at Kuusamo. In the spring of 1910 they moved to Kuusamo but continued to operate the cheese factory at Burnt Lake until 1912. In 1909, Mrs. Millar purchased land east of the Kuusamo cheese factory and gradually the land was cleared until about 50 acres were under cultivation in 1917. While operating the Kuusamo cheese factory, he also stocked staple goods for his patrons. The Government put a ceiling on the price of cheese early in 1917, so that finished the cheese making; no ceiling was put on the price of butter. This enabled the creameries to out-bid the cheese makers for cream; the cheese makers needed the whole milk to make good Cheddar cheese.

There was no telephone west of the village of Sylvan Lake when the Millar family moved to Kuusamo and it wasn't until 1916 that several farmers, including Mr. Millar, joined together and built a co-operative telephone line from Sylvan Lake to Eckville. It was a one wire line, on poplar poles, with a ground wire at each telephone. This served for a few years until it was sold to a telephone company, who then erected a two wire line on good poles.

Mr. Millar was very active in politics. He was a strong Liberal for many years but when the United Farmers of Alberta went into politics, he backed their candidate as he was a member of the U.F.A. He had been asked to run as a candidate on several occasions, but had

always declined. He served many terms as trustee on the Kuusamo School Board, and was prominent in public affairs. He was a dedicated Christian, kind hearted and generous, and he tried to help his fellow men. He was an elder in the Presbyterian Church, and for a time was Superintendent of the Sunday School in Red Deer. He was ably assisted in all his undertakings by Mrs. Millar.

Mr. T. B. Millar died in the Red Deer Hospital on November 19, 1921 and Mrs. Millar passed away on December 7, 1932 near Castor, Alberta where she had been staying with her son James. James died on January 11, 1972 in Calgary. Charles is living in Canmore, Alberta.

WILLIAM AND VIOLA MOORE

Bill is the son of Mr. and Mrs. John Moore of the Ridgewood district, where he was born and raised. After attending the Olds School of Agriculture, he continued farming with his father.

In 1964 Bill married Viola Hollman, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Pete Hollman of the Horn Hill district. Bill and Vi have a family of three children, **Shelly, Cindy and Craig.**

Bill bought the Oscar Selstrom homestead, NE 26-37-1-5 in 1965 and the family lived there for a short time before moving to Red Deer, but they continued farming in the Burnt Lake district.

Bill's grandfather, Victor Moore, owned land in Burnt Lake, NE 12 and SE 13-38-1-5, but lived in the Ridgewood district four and one half miles south. They kept their cows on Burnt Lake land in the summer time and drove a team and wagon twice a day for milking and hauling the milk home. Mr. Moore had a new three wire fence on his land, and a neighbor wanting to put a critter through, cut the wires and remarked, "Should've been a gate here anyway."

JOE MUELLER

The NW 16-38-1-5 had several occupants over the years and was greatly improved when it was bought by a Swiss family — the Joe Muellers. Joe was an excellent dairy farmer. He understood intensive farming and raised a remarkable amount of feed from one quarter. He had a good herd of dairy cows, and raised ample grain and fodder for winter and summer feed for his stock. Mrs. Mueller always had a bountiful garden. There were three children, **Joe, Marie and Louise.**

The Muellers moved to British Columbia, but Joe returned in the summer for a few years, and did breaking with his caterpillar tractor and hydraulic plow.

LESLIE NIELSEN

Les was born and raised in the Edwell district east of Penhold, Alberta, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Nielsen. Les and Brenda, the former Miss Kulbargs of Oyen were married in June, 1971 and farmed for two years in the Joffre area. They later moved to Red Deer where Les works at Great West Feeds Ltd.

Mr. and Mrs. Les Nielsen moved to the Burnt Lake area in the fall of 1975 purchasing the acreage across from the Burnt Lake Community Centre from Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Yeo.

Mr. and Mrs. Nielsen have two children, **Sherry**, four years old and a son **Kelly**, born in 1976.

ANDREW (ANDY) NIEMCZYK

Andrew Niemczyk was born in Poland in November 1894. He was not yet 20 years of age when World War I began. Poland caught between Germany and Russia became a war torn country. Andy's experiences were many and varied. He served in the Austrian Army as an officer in charge of a machine gun unit. He was promoted and decorated for bravery, receiving medals representing high military service awards. At one time he spent two years as a prisoner of war in Siberia. Somehow he escaped and returned home, walking all the way. At the end of the war when the German Army disbanded, the soldiers found their way home as best they could. During much of this time Andy carried his belongings in a round-ed home made wooden suit case painted green, with a rope handle. (He gave this suit case to the Dallaires and it is now in the possession of Lillie (Dallaire) Clutton. What stories it could tell!)

In February 1919 Andy was married to Anna Macnar, who was born in Poland in 1899. Andy told of the scarcity of consumer goods following the war. Wedding rings were impossible to buy, and Anna's wedding ring was a plain iron band. They were farmers, Andy having what was considered a good sized farm (7 acres) and a comfortable house. During those first years Andy suffered considerably from old war wounds in his legs.

Andy's determination grew to make a new start overseas. By 1926 they had two children, Helen born in 1920, Stanley in 1923. Jean was born in 1926, 2 months after Andy's departure. For them he could see no future. He, his father, his grandfather and his father before that had each served in the periodic wars that plagued Poland, generation after generation. Andy hoped for better for his son; he hoped that he at least could live out his life and raise a family in peace and security.

Andy had three sisters in New York, one married and two were nuns, who are still in 1976 living, and are over 90 years of age. It was more difficult for an immigrant to enter the U.S. than to come to Canada, so in 1926 Andy left his native land, his wife, three children, aged six and three years and baby expected in two months, to make a new home in western Canada. On his arrival he immediately set about learning the English language. This he did with the help of an English-Polish dictionary and any other help he could get. He soon could communicate readily with his neighbors. Through the Botterill Real Estate Agency he agreed to buy the NW 3-38-1-5. At the time this land, as well as the S½ 3 and other parcels were owned by an absentee landowner by the name of Clucas, who lived on the Isle of Man. To pay for his holdings Andy worked as section man on the C.P.R. in the Carmangay district in southern Alberta. During the fall and winter he labored at clearing his land, working for neighbors, threshing, anything to make the payments. The large trees were grubbed out by hand, one by one. When the land was broken and Andy worked it down and picked the roots, it was so well cleaned up it was like a garden patch. Andy cut saw logs from the big trees. There was lots of good 10" lumber in them. He had Frank T. Dallaire saw them in his mill and built a barn out of this balm lumber. Olav Seland was the carpenter. Before his house was built, he spent one winter in 1933 with Fred Sjoquist. Logs were cut from Fred's land and in 1934 Fred Sjoquist and Art Reynolds built a three



Andy Niemczyk — 1948.

roomed log house, which with one added room, was to be Andy's home for the remainder of his life.

As soon as possible after his arrival in Canada, Andy applied for his Citizenship papers, and received them with a sense of accomplishment and pride. Above all material wealth he valued his Canadian citizenship. He conducted himself with prudence and discretion so that he would never endanger his good standing in his adopted country. What others took for granted he valued and appreciated. He was honest and easy to get along with. He expected to be paid an honest wage but at the end of a threshing season when the accounts were all squared away, he would ask if everyone was satisfied and if so he would say, "so am I, we can forget it." He was ready to go on to something else.

He very much wanted to have his place all paid for before he brought his family out. This was a mistake. He was making arrangements for their passage when World War II broke out in 1939. All communication with Poland ceased and he never had a word from his family for the six following years. He continued to work steadfastly, and bought two more quarters of land. His cheery greeting "Hi neighbor" was an example of fortitude to all his friends.

At last through the International Red Cross, communication with his family was again restored, but it still wasn't smooth sailing. The younger generation was needed in the old country to re-build the country, and it wasn't until late 1949 that a visa was issued for Anna, his wife, to enter Canada. She travelled by air from Warsaw to Montreal, then by train to Calgary. She couldn't get a definite reservation for departure time, but had a "stand by" ticket. This meant she had to wait until her name was called and then she must be there to claim her seat on the plane. She sat in the Warsaw terminal one and one-half days waiting her turn. In those days the railway station in Calgary was a very crowded busy place. Air service was not yet as it became a few years later. Andy went to Calgary to meet his sweetheart whom he had not seen for 23 years. Over the years, Andy had always referred to his

wife as "my sweetheart". He was asked how he found her. He replied that he walked through the crowd calling "Anna Niemczyk", over and over. Anna had stationed herself by a pillar in the waiting room. Andy noticed her and approached her saying, "Are you Anna Niemczyk?" "Yes" was the reply. "Are you Andy?" Anna was amazed at the size of the farm, but the house didn't compare so favorably with the old home in Poland.

The years passed by but still with no success as to bringing his family to Canada. Andy, who had been so able and strong, became very ill. When it became apparent that he would not recover, visas were obtained on compassionate grounds for his eldest daughter and son, but too late for him to meet his family. Andy died in May 1958, aged 63 years. His daughter **Helen**, who had married Andy Zayac in Poland, but was widowed, arrived in Canada in July 1958. She later married Wally Sikora and they reside in Calgary. In 1975 she enjoyed a month's visit in Poland. Andy's son **Stanley** and family came in September 1958. The youngest daughter **Jean** is Mrs. Smolen Kozie and remained in Poland. Mrs. Niemczyk is retired and lives in Sylvan Lake.

Andy's life is a story of hardships and difficulties overcome. He was very happy in his work. And although he never saw his grandchildren inherit the fruits of his labor, he had a vision of what was to come, and never doubted that it would be realized.

STANLEY NIEMCZYK

Stanley Niemczyk, son of Andrew and Anna Niemczyk, arrived from Poland with his wife Genowefa and daughters **Anna** and **Mary** in September 1958. A son **Andrew** was born in December 1958. They took over the farm work of his father's estate and have made their home there.



Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Niemczyk — 1964. Anna, Andy and Mary.

MR. OSCAR NORBY (1874-1950)

Mr. Norby was born in Arvika Sweden in 1874. In 1892 at the age of 18 years he came to the Devils Lake area of the United States where he lived with an uncle. While here he worked and later began farming on his own at Devils Lake, North Dakota.

Times were hard. For instance, job opportunities were few and he and two friends often found that they were able to earn money in a day of working at odd jobs to buy only a loaf of bread. During the later years of his

residence in the Devils Lake area he was visited by a friend, who during conversation wondered whether Oscar would be interested in buying his Winchester shotgun. Since times were so poor, he was hesitant to make the purchase. After further discussion he stated he would purchase the gun for \$7.50 if from his cabin door he could shoot a duck swimming on a pond a fair distance away. The shot was made and the duck was downed. Mr. Norby now had a shotgun which was to prove invaluable later in keeping food on his family's table. This gun is still in the possession of his family and in good working order.

In the late 1800's Mr. Norby heard about homesteads being available in Canada and he was inspired to start anew and venture to the vast farming opportunities in Canada. Upon leaving the North Dakota district, he placed all his belongings in a wagon box which was drawn by three horses. Included was a six foot Deering binder, a walking plough, a set of wooden harrows and a five foot disc. These implements he was later to use for his homestead land in Canada. Mr. Norby worked his way towards Canada making a maximum of thirty miles per day with many nights spent sleeping under the wagon. He ended his long trek in the farming district of Willowdale east of Red Deer. Later in 1900 he filed a claim on a homestead on N.E. quarter 12-38-2-W5. While in the district east of Red Deer he met Caroline Maud Coghill who became his wife on January 22, 1902. Caroline Maud was born in Chatham-Essex County Ontario in 1882.

Roads were few at this time and when wending your way through the trees it was necessary to blaze trees in order to find your way to and from town or homesteads. On his homestead the first cabin built was made by himself from logs cut from his own land. Waterproofing of the roof was made possible by a covering of sods.

At a later date Mr. Norby acquired a quarter section to the east of the homestead where he built a new home. At this time the area became known as the Marianne district. Their new home was fashioned after the one he left in Sweden. The farm became registered as the Scandia Stock Farm and Home. It was in this home that most of their eight children were born. The eldest son, **Walter** died in 1927 from electric burns received while working

with Calgary Power Company in Moose Jaw. The other children in order of birth are **Olga** who died shortly after birth. **Mae** (Mrs. Ken Nelson) has two sons. **Pearl** (Mrs. Manly Viste) has four sons and three daughters and her husband Manly passed away in 1966. Next were twins, **Ruth** and **Esther**. Ruth (Mrs. Fraser McMullen) has four sons and her husband Fraser passed away in 1969. Esther (Mrs. Clare Snyder) who passed away in 1974 has two daughters. **Andrew** has two sons and a daughter. **Edward** has two daughters and a son. The family resided in the Marianne district for some twenty years. While living there Oscar promoted tree planting in his home district and led the way by example on his farm. Mr. Norby always took great pride and joy in the planting of trees and watching them grow. Around them were many plentiful wild fruit bearing bushes of raspberries, strawberries and saskatoons. Since most of the food at this time came off the land the women were kept busy gathering and canning food for winter use. Oscar also was an active participant in church, school and community affairs. Mrs. Norby was also active in community affairs. She was often called upon day or night, to help with the birth of many children in the district.

From the Marianne district they attended church at the Swedish Covenant church at Swan Lake. At this time travelling was done with buggy and democrat in summer and sleighs and cutter in winter. Often the cutters were home made. The land was wet and one Sunday on their way to church, they were a half mile from the church when the horse and buggy bogged down. In order to get out he had first to unhook the horse, then move his wife and children to higher ground. Since the narrow trail had trees on either side much manouvering was needed to retrieve the buggy. Once out, he was able to hook up the horse again and continue on their way to church. One well remembered custom of the church was at Christmas. At this time the congregation would gather before breakfast for an early morning service called the Yule Otta. Another sight that was not uncommon was to see the minister of the Swedish Covenant Church walking from home to home in the warmer weather. The minister would reach one home and spend the night and then walk to another home the next day. Come Sunday the family whom he was visiting would take him to church with them. Through this visiting the residents of the area had a feeling of closeness to one another.

Teachers also boarded in the district and it was not uncommon to see both teachers and students walking year-round to school as far as four miles at times. The school usually consisted of one room with all grades being taught.

Another highlight for the family was when the big circus came to Red Deer. Such an occasion involved an all day trip. This meant that the family would have to arise early, make themselves a mid-day lunch and take feed for the horses. All the family would ride in a horse drawn democrat down a narrow wooded trail breathing cool fresh morning air and listening to the birds' morning chorus. Often on their journey through the woods many wild animals could be seen which added much to their trip. Exhausted after a full day at the circus the family would quietly wend their way home through the woods listening to the peaceful night sounds.



Oscar Norby Family before 1927 and farm registration. Back — May, Walter, Ruth, Pearl, Mr. Norby, Mrs. Norby. Front — Edward, Esther, Andrew.

In the winter months many individuals found work at the Rocky Mountain House lumber camps which involved hauling lumber with horse and sleighs to Red Deer. The Norby homestead was a stopping place for many haulers where they could change and rest their horses and bunk up for the night and then continue on to Red Deer in the morning.

Mail delivery was made from town to town by horses. Travellers made their way from town to town in the famed stagecoach if they didn't have their own transportation. The mounted police were also seen travelling through the area wearing their scarlets looking for horse thieves.

During this time everybody seemed to be friends whether they knew each other or not and people felt there was no need to lock their doors. For instance, it was not uncommon to have guests present in your home for a night who were travelling through the area. Often these individuals would help do the chores. On occasion residents would come home and find their chores done and the traveller guests in their home making supper. Such an occurrence was commonplace and caused no need for alarm.

In the early 1930's, Oscar, Caroline and family purchased the S.W. quarter of 12-38-1-W5 in the Swan Lake (Burnt Lake District). Their new home when they arrived, had no trees around the buildings. Before too long, Mr. Norby and his family began planting many different varieties of trees and again demonstrated his love for trees. This land is still owned by Oscar and Caroline's oldest son Andrew. To this day many of the trees planted by Mr. and Mrs. Norby are still growing and the tree planting tradition is carried on by Andrew and his family.

Mr. Oscar Norby passed away in 1950 at the age of 76. He was predeceased by his wife Caroline Maud in 1945 at the age of 63.

PETER OLESON

Peter Michel Oleson was born at Hamlin, Iowa, U.S.A. on May 8, 1905. His father was from that area and his mother from Canada. There were five boys and three girls in the family. He was 12 years old when they came to Canada to the Bassano, Alberta area, in March 20, 1918. The family lived there five years when the parents moved to Dixon, Alberta. Peter came to the Drumheller district on October 14, 1924, then went back to Spokane, Washington on January 9, 1929. He was married there to Mabel Hanson, who passed away a short while after the marriage. They had one son **Arnold**, who is presently living at Brownvale, Alberta, and owns a garage business. There are three grandchildren, two boys and one girl.

Some memories of hard times are of when the family lived ten miles north of Bassano, the largest crops being nine bushels per acre on summerfallow. In 1918 they broke up 100 acres of land, seeded it to oats (for feed) and it didn't sprout until August. The following season feed was 75¢ a bundle. That same year, August 8, a prairie fire went through that area. It started in the Wintering Hills, went south east to Crawling Valley and Bow River where it burned out. Pete remembers well how it came right up to their house, and the youngest sister got her feet burned while fighting the fire. It burned all the granaries of the Big Bend Farming Company.



Peter Oleson and son Arnold — 1930.

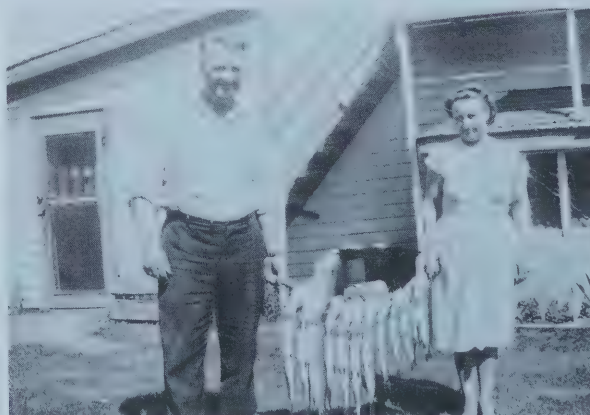
In 1919 animals out on the open range couldn't get water, the snow was gone and all other water supply was frozen. Many horses owned by nearby ranches died; Clark Bros. Ranch, Cluny, lost a lot of horses.

Peter remembers a cloudburst occurring June 3, 1923 at Bassano. The irrigation dam was in danger but it stood up under the pressure. The Bow River was about a mile wide and the bridge about a mile below the dam went out and has never been replaced.

Peter and May were married June 7, 1932 at Drumheller. May Phorberg Johnson was born November 9, 1908 and grew up near Markerville in the Hola School district. She had two sisters and one step-brother and one step-sister. Her father, Joe Johnson, was from North Dakota. Her mother passed away when May was 12 so she kept house for her father and later worked in Calgary for two years. May enjoyed sports. She played shortstop in the soft ball team of Markerville, before her marriage, and in the early thirties, when playing Delburne, the team took the Provincial Championship. She also liked gardening and chickens.

From 1937-41 Peter was farm manager for a large farm of 11 quarters south of Drumheller, owned by Frank Powell. In 1941 they acquired their own holdings there and farmed in that area until 1957.

In 1957 Pete and May celebrated their 25th Wedding Anniversary at Central Hall, New Hill with an "Open House".



Peter and Mae Oleson — catch at Pine Lake 1949.

On December 6, 1958 they moved to the Burnt Lake district. They purchased an acreage from Mr. and Mrs. McLean and a few more acres from Earl Grimson, making 21 acres on NW 4-38-1-5. May passed away December 13, 1968.

Peter was fond of sports, especially baseball, curling and bowling. In 1927 he drove a chuckwagon, "The Checkered Outfit" team, in the Calgary Stampede for Allan Avery. He also enjoys playing cards, especially bridge and poker.

Peter sold his acreage to Fred Yoe and moved from the district February 8, 1969. He has since lived in Red Deer, Benalto and New Hill. Presently (1967) he is living in Red Deer and is working at the Valley Hotel as desk clerk.

PETER AND INGEJARD OLSON

In May 1904 Peter and Ingejard Olson and family of Annie, Bertha, Bernhard, and Julia arrived from Sweden to settle on part of the SE 10-38-1-5. Another daughter, Elvira, was born at Burnt Lake. Some years later, they acquired a quarter on the school section, namely SW 11-38-1-5.

Mr. and Mrs. Olson (nee Brita Ingejard Jonsson) had been farmers in Sweden. Other immigrants had left Sweden before them and they had been corresponding with the Andrew Agrens. They travelled by train and boat through the North Sea to Hull, England and by train from Hull to Liverpool and ocean steamer to Montreal.

The first dwelling was a log house built by the former owner, Otto Johanson. This house was later enlarged. In 1905, Mr. Olson sowed his first acres of grain by hand, and then obtained work at the brick yard in Red Deer. That summer a severe hail storm struck destroying the entire crop. When Mr. Olson walked from Red Deer on the week-end, he said "I see you have the threshing all done!"

Mrs. Olson had brought her spinning wheel with her from Sweden which she used to make clothing for the family. She also did a lot of weaving and took a first prize at one of the fairs held at Burnt Lake with a woven cloth. In conjunction with these fairs, an auction of work done by the ladies would be held, with proceeds to the Swedish Baptist Church.

The Swedish Conference was held at Burnt Lake once. Many pastors came from time to time to conduct funerals or meetings, one was Rev. J. A. Wingblade who later became a member of Parliament in the Social Credit Government. Julia and Elvira were instrumental in starting the Sunday School here.

Bertha recalls her first teacher, Miss Bray, a rather corpulent lady 50 years old and engaged to be married at the end of the term. The old school had a stove at the back with the stove pipes running horizontally all the way to the front. One day Miss Bray slipped against the stove and the whole length of stove pipe fell down. There was no fire but lots of ashes; by the grace of God, she didn't break any bones but her engagement ring fell off and that was her first concern when she got up. She eventually found it in the ashes and soot and she didn't scold the pupils for snickering. Another experience that Bertha recalls is of a sleigh made by her father of heavy logs with boards across and the children hanging on for dear life



Mrs. Peter Olson at her spinning wheel — 1921.

when pulled by a team of oxen. However, after riding behind an ox team for 15 miles to Red Deer, all the attraction for them soon left her. It was just as bad when Mr. Olson took a bunch of cattle to Red Deer and Bertha had to ride behind the herd on an old ornery nag with a back bone like a razor blade, and bareback at that. Her mother got a lot of nursing with the liniment bottle for a whole week and had to listen to a lot of nasty remarks from her skinless daughter. Bertha remembers once when they had been haying and it was so hot the kids decided on a cool bath in the evening, so they half filled a wooden barrel with water and left it to stand in the sun until evening. They had no very near neighbors so after work Bertha stripped and then saw the neighbor lad coming up the lane, too close for her to make a run for it to the house. The only thing was to jump into the barrel and that she did and was the water warm! Oh it was! It seemed an eternity before he left but somehow she survived.

Mid-summer picnics were often held at Lindholms and one time in particular is remembered. Mr. Eric Johanson and Mr. Lars Petterson were anchor men on opposing tug-of-war teams. As the tugging went on, Eric seemed to be losing ground. Lars was somewhat shorter than Eric but heavier — a real tower of strength. Eric's loyal dog stood watching and when he saw it was getting worse for his master, he came up behind Lars and gave him a bite on the behind. Well, Lars' hand left the rope and Eric won the tug.

Bernhard, the only boy in the family, died in 1910 of appendicitis at a young age. Mr. Olson died suddenly on December 5, 1930 of a heart attack and Mrs. Olson

passed away at her daughter's home, Mrs. Nick Halverson's in December, 1937. Both Mr. and Mrs. Olson and Bernhard are buried in the Burnt Lake Cemetery. The girls are married. **Annie** married Andrew Nystedt and moved to the United States. They have three children. **Bertha** is married to Nick Halverson. She had two boys, Eina and Jack (Elmer) Larka, by a former marriage. Nick and she presently live in a Nursing Home in Grande Prairie. **Julia** married Carl J. Johanson and lived in the Burnt Lake district. **Elvira** married Albert Dufva. They both died at an early age, leaving a young family of three boys.

THE OWEN FAMILY

Vic. and Beth Owen lived in the Burnt Lake district on NE 26-37-1-5. The farm was the Selstrom homestead and was bought from Wm. Dairdson, who bought from the Selstrom estate. They came to this district from Ricinus, south of Rocky Mountain House, in May of 1954.

Vic's parents came from England, and were farmers, and Beth's (nee Bishop) from Ontario.

Beth has a teaching certificate and says of Burnt Lake, "My sole claim to fame is that I was the last teacher."

The Owens sold their farm and moved to Sylvan Lake. The present owners are Mr. and Mrs. Bill Moore.

Their family, one boy and two girls are **Keith** (born 1946) who married Barbara Holman from Bentley. They have two boys and are living at Wetaskiwin where Keith works for the Department of Social Service. **Gwen** (born 1954) married Vern Friesen. Vern is an Education student at the U. of A., Edmonton. **Vicki** (born 1955) married Dan Livermose who is an electrician in Edmonton.

Beth is employed at the Education Library at the U. of A.

PATCHETT

Nora Patchett was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Haak of the Burnt Lake district. For some years after their marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Harold Patchett lived in the Edwell district southeast of Red Deer. Their six children were **Muriel, Lorraine, May, Harold, Edwin, and Reg.**

In 1925 they moved to the Haak farm, and Edwin and Reg attended the Swan Lake School. The Patchett family later moved on to the west coast of British Columbia where the whole family is established.

HAROLD AND FAYE PATRICK

The Patricks moved into the Burnt Lake district in May 1974, onto a portion of SW 26-38-1-5. The acreage was bought from Vince Stuckey. They came from Bentley where Harold was in insurance and real estate business.

Harold was born and raised in Alix and received his schooling there. He served in the Canadian Navy during World War II, and returned to Alix. His parents, Mr. and Mrs. William Patrick are both deceased. His father came to Alix in 1913 where he operated a barber shop and pool hall that burned down in the spring of 1928.

Harold and Faye (nee Graham) were married at Alix in 1947. Faye is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Graham.

The Patricks have three children: **Ron** and family live in Lacombe, **Julie** and **Kim** live in Red Deer. There are two grandchildren.

Harold was employed at the Town Office, Sylvan Lake for a time. In November, 1976 the Patricks moved away and their place was then occupied by **DAVID AND WENDY STEVENSON**. They have four children: **Karen, Tammy, Patti-Ann and Jackie.**

JENS (JIM) PAULSEN

Jim was born in Denmark in 1893 and came to Canada as a young man. It's known that he had a brother living in Calgary.

When coming from Denmark Jim came as far as Saskatchewan and later went to Montana, U.S.A., but returned to Canada in 1915. He worked on farms in the Taber and Nanton areas. Jim came to Burnt Lake in 1931, and purchased his farm from Charles Gierdson, NE 15-38-1-5. He lived in a granary at Dallaires across the road while he had some lumber sawed from the timber on his land, which he used to build a small house. He carried water from the neighbors (first Dallaires and later Sandy Smiths). Jim was an exceptional bachelor housekeeper. He enjoyed playing cards, especially crib.

There was a heavy stand of timber on his land and it was improved to where he had 52 acres cleared. Jim did some of the farming himself but most of the work was done by operators; he also rented out pasture land and worked away from home.

In 1948 Jim sold his farm to Bryan Swainson for \$5600.00 and left the Burnt Lake district in 1949. He moved his house to Sylvan Lake on Fourth Street and lived there for a time. He also stayed with friends, the Jack Vansons in Red Deer and Sylvan Lake who were old friends from the Taber days.

Jim worked for a season at the Sylvan Lake "Boat House", owned by Mr. and Mrs. Andy Holland and also operated a Snack Bar on Main Street.



Jens (Jim) Paulsen — 1950's.

Retired in 1950, Jim was a member of the Friendship Club and of the Fish and Game Association. Jim passed away in 1967 at the age of 74.

MR. AND MRS. CARL PERSSON

Carl August Persson, born June 11, 1863 and wife Kristina (or Karen) Fredricka, (nee Hellgren), born November 19, 1855 and year old son **Karl Ernst** arrived in Red Deer from Stockholm, Sweden in 1893. They stayed with the Cronquist family while getting settled on SE 12-38-1-5. **Fred** was born in the fall of this year. They got a logging permit from the C.P.R. and hauled logs from SW 7-38-28-4 to build their home as there were no trees on Sec. 12. They were able to purchase a cow, horses and machinery. A Mr. Olson and son from Minnesota, with cows, horses and machinery homesteaded south of Red Deer and they were able to rent some cows from him and sold cream at the creamery.

Mrs. Persson had been a nurse in Sweden, so she was busy as a mid-wife and nurse in the district. Son Carl, can remember a big fire in the area around 1900 which started from two settlers burning off grass in a meadow. Mrs. Persson told Carl and Fred to crawl in a box by the house while she fought to save the buildings, hay and stock by dipping her long skirt in a bucket of water and beating the flames. She managed to save their place but Mr. and Mrs. Becky who lived on NW 6-38-28-4 lost their barn and team in the blaze.

Then came the wet years. Mr. Persson had purchased SW 7-38-28-4 from the C.P.R. and as Sec. 12 became very wet, the Persson family moved onto the ridge on Sec. 7. Son **Robert** had arrived by this time. This ridge has been part of an old Indian trail, later was surveyed as a road and became known as the Burnt Lake Trail. Mr. J. Smith and Mr. O. Wesslen helped build their new home, which is still standing. This became a favorite stopping place of many of the homesteaders, as it was close by the trail, about a day's journey from Red Deer. Cygnet Lake was still a lake at this time, before it was drained by the C.P.R. so hay and water were plentiful.

Mr. and Mrs. Persson had three sons, Carl, Fred and Robert, who all became farmers in the area. The name

was changed from Persson to Pearson, which spelling all the boys adopted.

Mrs. Persson passed away January 2, 1918 and is buried in the Burnt Lake Cemetery. In 1927 Mr. Persson sold the home half to his son Carl, and went to live with Robert, later with Fred. He passed away May 31, 1940 and is also buried in the Burnt Lake Cemetery.

MR. AND MRS. CARL PEARSON

On March 11, 1914 Annie Schill married Carl Pearson of the Burnt Lake district. Carl was born in Stockholm, Sweden March 2, 1892 and emigrated with his parents Carl and Kristina Persson to the Burnt Lake district in 1893. Annie's parents, Charles and Mathilda Schill came west from Nebraska in 1901, homesteading on NW 34-37-2-5, about twenty miles west of Red Deer. Mathilda's parents had emigrated from Sweden to Minnesota in 1878. Three years later her father died and the family sold out and moved to Nebraska, where Mathilda (Tilda) met and married Charles Schill. Two Schill brothers had emigrated from Sweden and had a farm here. Annie was born at Wasa, Nebraska September 11, 1891. It was very dry in Nebraska and North Dakota so in 1901 the family decided to move to Alberta with their stock, machinery and household effects. Two years after their arrival Annie's father died leaving a widow and the four children, Annie, Emil, Esther and Alvin. After she became a widow Mrs. Schill took a homestead on NE 10-38-2-5. The following year Mrs. Schill and John Johnson were married.

Carl Pearson, as many pioneer children, had little education, but worked hard with his father clearing and breaking land, and farming. The Van Slyke breaking plow, which Carl purchased from his step-father-in-law, John Johnson, and used, was recently donated to the Red Deer Museum Society. Annie and Carl first farmed in the Markerville district, then about 1920 moved to NE 31-37-28-4. In 1927 after Fred was married, Fred, Marie and step-daughter Arvida, moved there and Carl and Annie purchased the home half section from his father. The depression years were very hard, but Annie was happy and busy. Besides helping in the fields and milking cows she always had a big garden. Carl always had a flock of sheep and from them came quilts, mitts, sweaters and scarves as Annie washed, carded, spun and knit. Mr. and Mrs. Soderquist and Annie and Carl loved to go out west picking blueberries. One of daughter Ruby's early memories is one such expedition about 1930 being about 27 miles north west of Rocky Mountain House, camping by a stream, and sleeping in a settlers barn loft.

They raised four children, Ernest, Ruth, Ruby and Margaret. Annie passed away May 11, 1948 and is resting in the Burnt Lake Cemetery. **Ernest** was born January 14, 1917. He married Annie Anderson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jake Anderson of the Markerville district in 1942. **Ruth** stayed on the farm after completing school to help her parents. She was always interested in the culture of crafts and art and in 1947-48 attended the Institute of Technology in Calgary. In 1953 she started the first craft shop in Red Deer which is well known throughout western Canada. Ruth has taught many crafts over a period of years and sponsors a weekly T.V. show. She has been active in community affairs including: President of the Quota Club, which was noted for drama and concerts; President of Council of Women



Seated — Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Persson, Fred, Robert, Carl.



Carl Pearsons — Mrs. Jake Anderson, Bob DeJong, Carl Pearson, Ernest Pearson, E. Anderson, E. Hamilton, Mrs. C. Hamilton, Ruby Thomas, Ruth Pearson. Front — Donna Thomas, Ruth Pearson. Front — Donna Thomas, a friend, Dale Thomas, two friends — New Year's Day — 1953. Inset — Margaret Johanson, Margaret Pearson, Mrs. Carl Pearson — about 1942.

during which the Alberta Council instigated a 50 year celebration of women voting. She assisted the Victorian Order of Nurses to come to Red Deer, and aided the clothing bank under city assistance. She was President of the Inter club council which gave assistance to the Parkland School for the Retarded. She is a member of the First Baptist Church, Chamber of Commerce and Social Credit ladies. Ruby was married in 1944 to Charles Thomas of Montreal who was stationed with the Armed Forces in Red Deer. They had two children, twins, Donna and Dale. After his discharge they lived in Montreal, before separating. Then Ruby and children returned to Red Deer. On December 15, 1962 Ruby was married to Bill Horne. Margaret married Allan Jasman from Condor in 1957. They are presently living near Calgary where Allan builds and operates light aircraft. They have six children, four boys and two girls. Carl Pearson still resides on SW 7-38-28-4 with his daughter and son-in-law, Bill and Ruby Horne.

ERNEST PEARSON FAMILY by Annie Pearson

Ernie spent all of his short life in and around the Burnt Lake area. He was born on a farm in the Pine Hill district on January 14, 1917 and attended both Shady Nook and Burnt Lake schools.

Later, while still with his parents on the farm in Burnt Lake, he bought a truck and had a contract hauling milk for some years for the C.A.D.P.

In 1941 he enlisted in the army and was called to duty only a couple of weeks after we were married in 1942. He trained in Calgary's Mehwata Barracks and in Medicine Hat for two weeks before it was found that his health was not acceptable, and he received an honourable discharge. His health was never very good, but to all appearances he seemed healthy and was always cheerful.

Before our marriage I was Annie Anderson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jake Anderson of Markerville. We lived in Sylvan Lake where Ernie had a general trucking business until May 1947, when we moved to NW 7-38-28-4 in Burnt Lake, the former Langton place. There Ernie farmed with his father and became very interested in the land and the cattle. Being mechanically inclined, he had a passion for farm machinery.



Ernest and Annie Pearson — 1942.

It seemed we were plagued with hail storms five years out of seven, so farming was not very lucrative. Consequently, we could never afford any improvements on that old place, but it was home and we were quite happy there.

Never again have I seen such beautiful sunsets as were reflected across the hay flats in the springtime, and the mirages in the wintertime were something to behold! The frosty haystacks appeared to be up in the clouds. All these things we saw out of our kitchen window.

I remember watching the C.P.R. steam locomotive just a few rods to the north of us as it went on its way to Red Deer. In the springtime, the water was so high that it had difficulty chugging through, and we saw it stranded many times. Ernie used to call it "The Muskeg Lemon."

Being so close to the Burnt Lake Sanctuary, we saw the wild geese at close range all summer long. Ernie often tried to save their nests. Not so with the ducks, however. They settled in hordes on the nearby grain fields and nothing we could do seemed to scare them, so it was a race to beat them to the harvest; if the season was wet, they got the better part of it.

We had many wet years out there. In 1948 we were almost stranded on a little island, so to speak. I shall never forget the numerous times Ernie took me with him on the tractor through the water and mud down to the road so I could attend a W.I. meeting or the F.W.U.A. which he jokingly referred to as "The Fat Women's Union of Alberta."

Our children, Phyllis and Howard, attended Burnt Lake School until centralization when they were bussed to Red Deer.

On October 1, 1962 Ernie suffered another heart attack and died at the age of 45. Daughter Phyllis was 20 years old on that fateful day and teaching at Innisfail; Howard was only 15 years old and attending River Glen School in Red Deer. We then moved to Red Deer where I still (1976) live. It was a terrible adjustment for us to make at the time, but with the help of so many of our good neighbors at Burnt Lake we managed to carry on.

Now Howard, married to Linda Winters of Red Deer, lives in Calgary and works as a welder. Phyllis married Eric Johanson in 1964 and they farm at Burnt Lake. They have six children: Kim, Holly, Glen, Ricky, Sharon, and Kevin.

Oh, that Ernie could have lived to see his grandchildren! but such is life.

OLAV PETERSON

Olav Peterson, his wife, Rosa and young family came from North Dakota with Johann Sveinson and his family in 1900.

He filed on the SW 36-37-1-5 and with the help of Johan Sveinson built a house and barns for his cattle and other stock.

There were four children in the family and about 1910 they moved to Wynyard, Saskatchewan where Mrs. Peterson's people were living.

MR. AND MRS. CARL EDWARD PETTERSON

Mr. and Mrs. Carl Edward Petterson (later Peterson) and the Eric Johansons knew each other in Ramsle, Sweden and came on the same boat to Canada in April 1893. It took three weeks on the sea and one by rail to get to Red Deer, Alberta. Each of the families had a small daughter. Petersons located on SW 14-38-1-5.

The homestead house was made of logs and had an upstairs. It was papered on the inside with Swedish newspapers. They were a very fine young couple and Mr. Peterson was an unusually good businessman.

In 1894 the Charlie Johansons of Shady Nook (no relation to Eric) arrived from Sweden and stayed at the Peterson home until their homestead house was built and they recall the many kindnesses of both Mr. and Mrs. Peterson.

The first move of the Peterson family was to the Waskasoo district where they bought a half section where Chuck Boulding is now located. The house is still there. Originally the stairs were on the outside. This is where Boda fell resulting in permanent injury to her hip.

They were living there when Mr. Peterson died from tuberculosis, October 21, 1904 at the age of 35. His was the first funeral held in the newly completed Burnt Lake Swedish Baptist Church and he was buried in the Burnt Lake Cemetery. It is interesting to note that Mr. Peterson was a director of the Red Deer Creamery.

Following his death Mrs. Peterson had the right to file on a homestead. This she did in the Evarts area. Land was also bought at the top of the hill in West Park — theirs was one of the first homes. The oldest four girls lived there and went to school in Red Deer while the younger girls (Boda and Katherine) spent their time on the new homestead. Mrs. Peterson divided her time between the two places. She had a horse named Prince, that she drove using a buggy or cutter, according to the season. On these trips she took the youngest child, Haydie, with her and they broke their journey by stopping overnight with their friends, the Eric Johansons.

Since the country schools at that time held school during the summer months only, and had the long break in winter, the two girls attended the Evarts school. Mrs. Peterson arranged with a very fine, kind neighbor to care for the girls and make their lunches when she had to go to Red Deer. The girls recall the son carrying their lunch in a lard pail but have forgotten the name of these folks.

Mrs. Peterson's brother Carl Oholm built the house and also attended to the land.

Following Mrs. Peterson's death in 1913, at the age of 48, Signe stayed home and kept house for all the girls in their West Park home. Mrs. Peterson was also buried in the Burnt Lake Cemetery. Mr. Frank Tallman, was executor of the estate and was very helpful to Signe.

There was no Swedish Baptist Church in Red Deer so they attended the original First Baptist Church, located on the south east corner of 51 Street and 49 Avenue.

The girls were known for their beauty. Each had a clear complexion with rosie cheeks. Their sunny dispositions were a great asset. They were an intelligent, well mannered, and well dressed family of seven girls. They were highly respected in the community and well organized in the home, each having her own responsibilities. Their closest neighbors were the Cruickshanks, Nybergs, Highs and Shannons. The Cronquists, Eric Johansons and Petersons always visited back and forth throughout the years.

The girls were interested in sports and in the Red Deer Advocate, October 1914 reports — "Ruth Peterson won Class A girls champion, at the sports".

The girls were **Signe Elvira** born September 22, 1892 in Ramsle, Sweden and came to Canada with her parents in April, 1893. She died July 29, 1964. Signe was an unusually fine person. Everyone admired her tremendously for the way she mothered them all. In 1914 she became engaged to Dan A. Campbell. However, he joined the forces when World War I broke out and was killed in action.

On August 2, 1921 she married Elmer Rivers and they had three children; Dorothy Patricia, Fredrick Edward and Mona Louise. Elmer was born in Finland and was an excellent furniture and cabinet maker by trade. They eventually moved to the U.S.A.

Fortunately, Signe wrote down a number of dates for the family records.

Esther Usilia was born October 21, 1895 and died March 19, 1964. She married Phil Harrison before the end of hostilities during World War I. They had two children, Ruth (now Mrs. Wm. Gage) born October 2, 1919 and Howard R. born May 24, 1924. Esther's husband was a telegraph operator for the C.P.R. for years



Carl Edward Petterson Family. Back — Ruth, Ellen, Esther. Front — Signe, Katherine, Bayda, Haydee, Mrs. Peterson.

but moved to the U.S.A. and the youngest three girls gradually followed.

Cairn Johana Ruth was born September 18, 1897 and died June 6, 1948. Her schooling was mostly in the Red Deer schools and afterwards she graduated as a nurse from the General Hospital School of Nursing at Medicine Hat. Ruth married Reginald Marshall Whyte (Reg) who was born October 22, 1895 and died January 23, 1952. He owned and operated the Ford car dealership in Red Deer for many years. Their eldest child Cecil John born February 14, 1923 was killed in active service during World War II (February 20, 1944). Patricia May was born October 12, 1924. Pat graduated in nursing from the Royal Alexandra Hospital, Edmonton in 1947 and later married G. W. Mortimer of the R.C.M.P. Charles Andrew (Andy) was born February 27, 1930. He married Margaret Harvey of the Poplar Ridge school district and they still live there. Andy has a business in Bentley.

Ellen Charlota was born August 18, 1899 and died October 21, 1970. She married Wallace Porter and they had two children. Louise, born October 15, 1924 and James Edward, born November 6, 1925 (deceased). Louise is now Mrs. Harry Allen of Edmonton. They have three children. Louise graduated from the same class as her cousin, Patricia Whyte. Ellen Peterson Porter worked for Eaton's in Edmonton as a buyer for many years.

Boda Elisabeth was born September 24, 1900. She married Roger Earl Cleivette on her birthday, 1931. Her husband passed away on November 19, 1961 and Boda died July 26, 1966. Their only daughter Lola Ann, born January 18, 1941 died when she was only two years of age.

Katherine Jutta was born October 19, 1902. She is still living in California. She was married twice and lost both husbands. There were no children. She worked in the telephone office in Red Deer for some time after leaving school.

Haydie Ellenor, born March 25, 1904 was the youngest of the girls. Unfortunately she lost her first husband in a hunting accident and her second husband in 1970. Katherine and Haydie live together now in Reseda, California.

LARS AND ANNA PETTERSON — by Betty (E. E.) Meyers

History tells us that during the years 1896 to 1914, the Canadian Government and the railroad companies were in the immigration business and went to no end to encourage and persuade people from U.S.A., central Europe, and Britian to come to western Canada. In Sweden they would receive literature in the mail stating 160 acres free land for anyone who wished to farm; wages for women \$25.00 to \$40.00 per month for household duties. This promotion worked well in Sweden and commonly was known as the America emigration fever, and was contracted by female, male, old and young alike, and the only cure was to take the first ship available for Canada.

Lars Pettersen and Anna Norberg were no exceptions, and soon had contracted the America emigration fever. Lars left Sweden in 1898 and Anna in 1908. Before coming to Alberta, Lars spent about a year in Montana, working in a copper smelter and on a cattle ranch. His

first job in Alberta in 1899 was with a Mr. and Mrs. Eigelkraut, east of Red Deer, one mile from Vic Bjorkeland's home. He worked for them for about one year, after which he worked for E. P. Cronquist in Red Deer. He also worked for Eric Johanson in Burnt Lake before he was married. His trade in the old country was harness, and shoe making, but he did not follow this in Canada, instead did carpentry and farming. He worked for Cronquist also after he was married. He worked on his farm, as well as, on the building of the big Cronquist house that has this year (1976) been moved by the Folk Festival Society from its original location to an area east of Great Chief Park, Red Deer.

Anna spent a few months in Roseau, Minn. with her brother-in-law and family, the Sjoquists, before coming to Burnt Lake to be with her uncle and aunt, Jonas and Brita Sjoberg (this name was later changed to Smith) and cousins Richard, John, Freda and Edwin. Her first job. was in Red Deer with a Mr. and Mrs. Simpson. Mr. Simpson was a real estate agent. The Simpson family could neither understand, nor speak Swedish and Anna's English vocabulary was almost nil, so she had quite a time to understand Mrs. Simpson's instructions. There was only one way; get busy and learn English. She soon picked up enough to carry out her daily duties while the Simpsons did not learn a word of Swedish. She used to get one day off a month, and that day she usually spent with her Uncle and Aunt, and cousins in Burnt Lake. There was always the problem to get a ride out and back again. On one occasion Lars Pettersen and a friend of his volunteered to take her back to the city. She accepted the offer. Two promising young fellows, which one should



Lars Pettersen Family. Standing — George, Lars, Leonard. Seated — Betty (Elizabeth), Mrs. Pettersen and Alma.

she set her hat for, but it seems Lars decided that for her. On December 13, 1909 Lars Petterson set out for Red Deer on the most eventful day of his life, his wedding day. The marriage certificate is written in Swedish. I shall try to interpret it for you.

Lars Petterson, Burnt Lake, Red Deer, Alberta and Anna Josefina Norberg, Burnt Lake, Red Deer, Alberta enter into a holy relationship in accordance with God's word in the city of Red Deer December 13, 1909.

Witnesses. Wilhelm Wessling Lizza Bjorkgren
Pastor — G. A. Sandin

These pioneer folks became the parents of six children: **Ella Elizabeth (Betty)** Meyers, Innisfail, **George Gustave**, Sylvan Lake, **Leonard Lars**, Calgary, **Alma Josephina**, Backett, Edmonton, a baby girl, stillborn, and **Doris Anna** who died at seven days. All six children came into this world the old fashioned way on the farm, and not in a modern hospital. Dr. Richard Parsons delivered Betty, Mrs. Ole Nelson (midwife) — George, Mrs. Isaac Johnson — Leonard, and Dr. P. L. Backus — Alma.

What became of these farm kids? The two little sisters are buried in Burnt Lake. The others went to school at Sylvan Lake, some longer than others. Betty finished her education in Red Deer and Edmonton. She worked at the Club Cafe, Red Deer during the hungry thirties for about nine years and from there to Edmonton for almost ten years. In Edmonton she worked for the Government a short while and from there to Imperial Oil Limited, Edmonton, as a stenographer. In November 1947 she left Edmonton and was married in Red Deer to James A. Meyers, the grandson of J. M. Meyers, who with his wife operated the Tourist Inn in Sylvan Lake, as well as being mail man for a number of years on the Burnt Lake — Marianne Route. Betty started business with her husband in Sylvan Lake in 1947, and moved to Innisfail in 1951, where they still operate Meyers Radio and Electric Limited. Her husband is a Master Electrician and Electronic Technician, plus a farmer. George lives on his farm about half a mile south of the town of Sylvan Lake. He has a small dairy business, as well as grain and rape farming. After declaring he was never going to marry, in 1948 he met and fell in love with a certain Edith Drader from Edmonton, and was married in the spring of 1949. It seems George and Edith have had a good life together, except George had the misfortune to lose his right arm in a farm accident in the summer of 1964. They have two children, Ernie (by adoption) and Myrna. Ernie is married to the former Velma Olson, and they are living in a trailer on George's farm. Myrna is married to Robert Dipert, an American, in the Nazarene church ministry. She met him while he was pastoring a church near Sundre, Alberta, and she was nursing at the Sundre hospital in 1974. Myrna is a gifted musician, plus an R.N. in the nursing profession for both the U.S.A. and Canada. Leonard farmed with his father and brother till he joined the army early in 1941. He came home February, 1946 from overseas and began to farm again with his father. In 1954 he broke up that relationship and went to Calgary to work, where he still lives. Here he met the former Ellen Smith, an English girl, and was married in early 1960. He has one step-daughter who is married and living in Calgary. He is a licensed auctioneer, as well as being in the office building heat and air-conditioning

maintenance business. Alma worked at Kanten's Furniture in Sylvan Lake before going to Bible School in Saskatoon and North Battleford, graduating from the latter. She met her husband, John Beckett from Saskatchewan while in Bible school. They were married at Sylvan Lake September, 1951. Alma has been in Edmonton since 1950. She has two daughters, Mrs. Brian (Marjorie) Hanigan, a school teacher, teaching French, living in Saskatchewan. Her husband is in the honey business. Jean is at home, quite a clever artist and working in a bank in the city. Alma's husband is with the C.N.R.; has been since they were married. She works in a drapery store. This is pretty well what became of the Petterson farm kids.

In the early 1900's Lars built a log cabin on his homestead, located nearly two miles south of Sylvan Lake, SE 20-38-1-5. This he inhabited for about seven years between jobs, doing his shopping and getting his mail at Burnt Lake. There was no post office in Sylvan Lake, then called Snake Lake.

Upon the decision of getting married, and having faith in the future, during the summer months of 1908 and 1909 he built a two storey frame house on the east side of his homestead. It was the first frame house in the area, as many were still living in log houses. This house became and remained the home of the Petterson family till 1947 when father and mother moved to Sylvan Lake in retirement. Roy Grutter who had bought the farm, burnt it down in 1975. It hurt to see the old landmark go. This was the house we had lived in and it held many memories. Father built every building on the place, except one of the barns that Joe Heinrich of Sylvan Lake helped to erect. He dug our first well, made our first water pump, several sets of bob sleighs, our light horse cutter, a harness for our buggy horse. It had no collar, but a heavy breast strap instead. He also made all our harness reins and halters.

Father served on the Sylvan Lake school board for several years which meant we had to be model students. I don't know if we were. George and I started school on the same day and neither one of us could speak any English. The first few weeks were tough, but we soon caught on.

Father started a milk business in Sylvan Lake in the middle twenties, but disposed of it during the latter part of World War II. I can remember he charged \$1.00 for 10 quarts of milk during the depression years. He had made many friends during this time in town and when he had delivered the last bottle and told his last customer, "tomorrow you will have a new milk man, I am quitting", there was sadness in his heart. He missed his customers for a long time and I am sure they missed him.

Our social life had various high lights. One was the mid-summer June 24th celebration. The celebration of this Scandinavian holiday generally took the form of a picnic. Always some church minister was present, there was singing of hymns, a short speech by the minister, and a sports program. This program consisted of races and games for the young fry, races and tug-of-war for the adults. Father was a very popular contestant in the tug-of-war as he was very strong and weighed over 200 pounds; this made him a real asset to any team. Then there was the eating in the lof-sal. The last lof-sal I saw was in 1921 so maybe you don't know what I am talking about. I have checked my two Swedish-English dictionaries and find no

satisfactory explanation so have to try to do by best with the risk of being criticized by my Swedish friends. The word lof, means leaf, sal means salor or parlor. My dictionaries agree on this. The men in the community would get together a few days before the twenty-fourth and erect it. It was about twelve feet wide, thirty feet long and eleven or twelve feet high. The size was not the same every year; it would depend on available materials and the weather. It took the shape of a nice loaf of bread, with the entrance at one end. It was entirely built from heavily leaved branches, poles or rails, tied in many places. Very few nails were used. It was cool and almost rain proof, and provided a wonderful shelter for food laden tables ready for dinner and later afternoon coffee and homemade ice cream. The one I remember best was at John Halversons with the lof-sal right beside the bubbling cool water of the creek which created a wonderful peaceful atmosphere. I can also remember going to N. Andersons in the Marianne district for the June 24th picnic. It would be great to have a June 24th celebration, but who would build the lof-sal?

When it came to religion Father and Mother were quite non-denominational. They went mostly to the Swedish Baptist church in Burnt Lake, but also attended the Swedish Missionary Friends, and Lutheran churches whenever they had special services. Father would sometimes preach in the Baptist church if the minister was not there, or if there was no one to fill the pulpit. I am the only member of our family who held a membership in a Burnt Lake church. On August 5, 1929 I was baptized by student pastor Burger Swenson in the waters of Sylvan Lake, and later was accepted as a member of the Swedish Baptist church at Burnt Lake. I understand there were no further memberships in that church. I must not neglect to acknowledge the faithfulness of my Burnt Lake Sunday School superintendant, Mr. Oscar Johanson, and three assistants, who have now gone on, namely, Freda Smith, Julia Johanson and Alvira Dufva. These people played a very vital part in teaching and influencing my young life towards a commitment to the Lord Jesus Christ. I trust I shall never lay down the torch that these great church pioneers were instrumental to light.

When Father and Mother moved to Sylvan Lake in 1947, they became interested in the Pentecostal church, and were among the founders of that church there. We have memories of the religious life in our home. There was the learning of bed-time prayers and saying grace at the table, and father reading the Bible. Also many church ministers stayed with us over weekends, especially over Sunday night, to catch the train to Red Deer from Sylvan Lake. Among those I can remember of the Baptist denomination was Rev. Ericson, Ole Larson, John Bergen and Wingblade, who later became the M.L.A. for Wetaskiwin constituency for many years. From the Swedish Mission Friends were Mr. and Mrs. Gilstrom, returned missionaries, and from the Lutheran, Rev. Ecklund, Lingquist and Grenberg.

During the horse and buggy days, many of our friends from Burnt Lake, Centerville and Marianne would stop on their way from Sylvan Lake at our place. They would talk about the events of the day, share a cup of coffee, have some homemade buns and cookies, and if it was on a hot summer day let their horse or horses, whichever it



Lars Petterson, age 85, with his homemade vehicle.

might be, have a drink of water at our well. However, these happy visits gradually disappeared with the coming of the automobile.

For some years the Municipal District election polling station was at our house. People would come, vote, leave the house, but linger outside to visit. The one I remember best was one year Sam Grimson was running for councilor and many of the Burnt Lake people were anxious he should win. There were cars, horse driven vehicles and people about our place as if we were having some big party. I don't remember how the election turned out.

In April 1913 a new member was added to our family for about two and half years. Mother's nephew, Fred Sjoquist came to stay with us to go to school. He left November 1915 for Saskatchewan and did not return till 1928, when he came from the United States and spent a month with us.

Father was a very resourceful man. At 85 years he lost his driver's license, and had to put away his car. This meant he had to carry his groceries and mail from town to his home regardless of weather. This he did not seem to mind too much but when it came to lumber and heavier articles he had to devise some method of transportation. He purchased a garden tractor, and with an old car he had made a two passenger seat vehicle with enough space that his grandchildren could sneak a ride. He could travel up to speeds of 25 miles per hour, and transported lumber, cement blocks plus other heavy articles. As well, he gave some friends a ride home from church. Things went well till the local town policeman demanded a driver's license, and a license for the vehicle. This was very upsetting for Father. We went to the Hon. Gordon Taylor, minister of highways, who told us there was no category covering this strange vehicle so the Department could not issue a license, so Dad merrily rolled along on the road till the winter weather took him off. Father did not see spring as our Lord called him home February 24, 1965, and this strange mode of transportation nestles in the lovely spruce trees on his son George's farm, wondering where his creator and owner is.

Many more things could be said about these worthy pioneers but the story must end. Father and Mother are both buried in the Sylvan Lake cemetery. Their head stone bears the inscription: Anna Josefina Petterson died

January 5, 1956 at the age of 74 years. Lars Leonard Petterson died February 24, 1965 at the age of 86 and half years.

THE PROCTOR FAMILY

Milton (Milt) and Shirley Proctor moved into the Burnt Lake district on May 18, 1973. The property, the SE 27-38-1-5, was purchased from Elmer Tomalty and formerly belonged to Frank Lindholm. The Proctors had lived in Edmonton 21 years and in Red Deer four years. They have a family of four girls: **Bonnie** (Mrs. Bob Zinken of Leduc) who has one son, Jeffrey; and **Verla**, who works in Edmonton. **Trudy**, in Grade 12, and **Patti**, in Grade 6, are both at home.

Milt was born in Mervin, Saskatchewan, and with three sisters and two brothers, received his schooling there. His father, a farmer, came from Kilkenny, Ireland and homesteaded in Saskatchewan. Milt's mother came from the London, England area.

Shirley (Smith) is from Alix, Alberta and received her schooling there and in Red Deer. Her father, Albert (Bert) G. Smith, was a boiler erector and did his work throughout Canada. He came from Rexham, Wales in 1910 or 11. Shirley's mother was from Winnipeg; she died in 1972. Shirley had five brothers, two now deceased.

The Proctors were married in 1951 and will celebrate their 25th Anniversary this year.

Though Milt is Construction Manager of A.G.T. in Red Deer, he does some farming on his 30 acres at Burnt Lake. He is a member of the Sylvan Lake Curling Club. Patti, the youngest daughter, is a dancer with the Sylvan Lake Ukrainian Dancers who performed at the Red Deer Exhibition in 1975.

ROBERT RAMSAY

Robert and Thresa (Terry) Ramsay and family moved onto an acreage on SE 27-37-1-5 in December 1975. It was formerly owned by Robert and Margarite Hay. The Ramsay family came here from Red Deer and were formerly from Edmonton. Robert is a heavy duty mechanic and is working at Ft. McMurray. He hopes to be transferred to Joffre shortly to work at the new Petrochemical Complex when it's in operation.

Robert and Terry were married by a United Church minister in an outdoor ceremony at Coronation Park in Red Deer on a beautiful sunny day, August 31, 1974. There are two Muttitt boys from a former marriage, **Randy** 15, and **Wayne** 13. The boys enjoy artex painting and assembling models, working with their horses and dogs.

Robert was born at Mannville, Alberta. His parents Claude Andrew and Betty Winnifred were farmers in that area. Terry was born in Vancouver, British Columbia. Her parents were Thomas George and Margery Ellen White.

Terry enjoys doing crochet, knitting and artex painting. Robert likes to fish and ties flies for this recreation. He enjoys assembling models and both Robert and Terry get pleasure in training horses. They have a few quarter horses on their acreage.

HENRY REINHOLT

Henry Reinholt and his wife and two sons came to Calgary from North Dakota in 1892. Mrs. Reinholt and



Henry Reinholt — about 1913.

Mrs. Johan Sveinson were sisters. His sons were Theodore (Ted) and Frederick Lewis and the third son, Richard, was born in Calgary in 1892.

Mr. Reinholt was a stone mason and brick layer and built many of Calgary's early buildings. The brewery, Pat Burns' residence, Senator Lougheed's home, and the Colonel Belcher Hospital are just a few.

About 1892 he filed on a homestead in the Burnt Lake district, the NW 14-38-1-5 and lived here until 1902 when they moved to Red Deer. He did some building here. He built the second Swan Lake School on NW 2-38-1-5. The school was later moved to NE 3-38-1-5 just a half mile west to the town of Stockholm.

Four of the children were born here, Haidie, Ferdinand, Ann and Pearl, and the fifth daughter Lilian, was born in Red Deer in 1902. He built a big stone house in Red Deer where the family lived and was very active in the construction business for several years.

On August 4, 1914 war was declared and many men answered the call to serve in the armed forces. Mr. Reinholt, himself, joined in 1915, and was seriously wounded in November 1916 at Baupenne, France. He was discharged in January 1917.

Frederik Lewis joined the services in February 1915 and served until November 1919. He took part in many of the major battles, in Ypres June 1916, Somme, where he was wounded, and in Vimy Ridge. When he returned to Edmonton he carried on with his work in bridge construction. **August Theodore** (Ted) enlisted in early 1917. He was twice wounded, was badly shell shocked, and discharged in 1918 with a pension of \$15.00 a month.

Richard Wendell enlisted in March 1918 but too late to see any action in the war. He returned to Edmonton and carried on with his work as carpenter. After selling his home in Red Deer, Henry Reinholt, his youngest son Ferdinand, and the oldest son, Ted, bought farms at Meanook, near Athabasca and farmed there for several years. Mr. and Mrs. Reinholt lived with their son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. McCrorie in Calgary until their death. Mr. Reinholt died in the Colonel Belcher Hospital.

Ferdinand met with a tragic death in a snow storm when his team of horses dragged him after the sleigh was upset. There were four daughters **Haidie**, married Wm. McCrorie and lived in Calgary. They had no children. **Pearl** died in her late twenties at her home in Red Deer. **Anne** married Cyrus Holmes from Calgary. They had two children. She died in her early thirties. **Lillian**, still living in Edmonton has never been married. She was an outstanding pianist and studied with Mde. LeSaunier in Red Deer and Edmonton.

Lillian writes of her family, using the old Icelandic spelling of names, first how her parents met: "in North Dakota my Dad (Indridi Fredrickson) and his brother Fred went threshing to my Mother's father's home (Jason Thordarson) where Bjorg was keeping house for him — a beautiful little Icelandic girl, who is Aunt Steina's (Mrs. Johan Sveinson) sister." Also regarding her grandmother; "I was about four years of age when my father's mother came to Red Deer from Williston, North Dakota where she had been living with her daughters Pearl Taintor and Augusta Tice. She couldn't speak a word of English. Her name was Solveig Rebecca. She passed away in our house and Father, being a stone mason, built her tombstone out of stone with the inscription in Icelandic. It is in our family plot in the Red Deer Cemetery across from Deerhome.

JOFFAT REINHOLT AND FAMILY

In 1893 Joffat Reinholt cousin of Henry Reinholt family homesteaded the SW 12-38-1-5. There were four children in the family. **Alli**, the eldest boy was a very clever boy and when he was in his early teens he was doing some experiments with gun powder. There was an explosion and he was badly burned on his face and hands and a huge hole in the roof was the result, but fortunately the house was not burned.

About 1904 the family moved to Cuba where they had some friends who had settled there and wrote telling them of what a good place Cuba was. Alli came back to Winnipeg, Manitoba in 1918 to enlist in the 1914-1918 war. He took ill just after landing in England so did not see any service. He was discharged and returned to Cuba in 1919.

JAMES ANTHONY RENDALL

Jim's father's ancestors came from Scotland; his mother's came to the American Colonies in 1770 from Germany. They fought in the American Revolution and following the war, they settled in Ontario. (Ontario Historical Society)

Jim was born in Vancouver in 1943. The family sold their two nursing homes and moved to One Hundred Mile House in the Cariboo in 1957 to a cattle ranch. Following high school, Jim hitchhiked to the Douglas Lake Cattle Ranch to find a job and ever since he has



Jim Rendall and his champion Quarter horse, Fellina — 1974.

worked on cattle ranches or on horse training establishments throughout British Columbia, Wyoming, Texas, Arizona, California, Alberta and Australia. In 1966 Jim took an interest in cutting horses and their training; today he specializes in training cutting, and reining, pleasure and working cowhorses.

Since 1970, following his marriage to Margaret Johanson, oldest daughter of Axel and Dora Johanson, he has spent most of his time in Burnt Lake, making fre-



Margaret Rendall and her horse, Miss Market 103, winning the reining class at the Red Deer Fair — 1974.

quent trips to Texas, Arizona and California in the winter time to get his horses ready for the Quarter Horse shows and to learn more about training cutting horses.

Margaret Rendall (nee Johanson) was born in 1937 in Red Deer. She took grades one to eight at Burnt Lake; grade nine was taken by correspondence; grades ten and eleven at the Nazarene College and grade twelve at the Lindsay Thurber High School. She attended university at the University of Alberta in Edmonton where she received her Bachelor of Education in 1968.

After taking two years of university, she taught at Delburne, Rocky Mountain House, Calgary and Kelowna from 1960 to 1974. Presently she is substitute teaching at Red Deer and at Sylvan Lake.

ARTHUR AND LILLIAN REYNOLDS

Arthur, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Reynolds, S. Wales, Gt. Britian, was born at Brwynant, S. Wales, Gt. Britian, October, 1906. He had three sisters and five brothers.

Arthur took his schooling at Glandur, Wales, and took up carpentering as his trade in Wales. He came to Canada with his brother Ben in 1929, and worked at Hassar, Alberta. They finally worked their way up to the Burnt Lake district where another brother, Tom, was working. They did a bit of farming and carpentering. In 1932 Arthur and brother Ben went back to Wales for a month's visit. Arthur returned to the Burnt Lake district alone, where he did a lot of carpentering at different homes in the district.

He met Lillian Hansen, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jack and Dora Hansen. She was born at Crystal Lake, Iowa, November 24, 1911. She has one sister and one brother. She took her schooling at different places, moving around quite a bit. She came to Canada on January 22, 1929, to live with her uncle and aunt, the Hackers, helping them for several years. She attended the Burnt Lake school; the teachers were Miss Helen Stanwick and Mr. H. J. Cody.

Lillian married Arthur Reynolds May 2, 1934, and lived on SW-8-38-1-5, till June 8, 1940. Arthur decided to

do full time carpentering, a trade he really enjoyed. They bought property at Sylvan Lake and moved there.

Arthur and Lillian had a family of nine children, three boys and six girls: **Leonard, Raymond, Anna, Joyce, Gwen, Clayton, Myrna, Sherry** and **Gloria**. The children grew up and all went to Sylvan Lake school, Mr. Cody being one of their teachers. He also taught some of the grand-children.

Some of the Reynold's daughters were beauticians, some house-wives and oil-wives. The boys worked with Arthur and learned the carpentering trade, building many beautiful homes in Sylvan Lake and district. The sons, Leonard and Raymond, took over the business. In the early part of 1968 Arthur had a bad fall. After that he worked around the shop, and helped with the garden. He'd plant a few rows of seeds in the fall, that came up in the spring for early use.

In 1973 Arthur and two daughters, Gwen Huebner and Gloria Reynolds went to Wales to visit Arthur's eldest brother, Yack. They spent a month there. Yack suffered a stroke and passed away a few months later.

Arthur and Lillian celebrated their 41st wedding anniversary May 2, 1975. They have resided at Sylvan Lake for 35 years.

Arthur had a stroke and passed away very suddenly October 31, 1975, at the age of 69 years. He was predeceased by one son, Clayton, and two daughters, Miss Anna Reynolds and Mrs. Stanley (Myrna) Norem. All are buried in the Sylvan Lake Cemetery.

Lillian still lives in her own home at Sylvan Lake, enjoying fairly good health, and carrying on with the daily duties. She also has a few hobbies such as knitting, sewing, reading, baby-sitting, and gardening. These along with a few other things can keep a person pretty well occupied.

GUS RINTINEN

Mr. and Mrs. Rintinen came from Finland in 1928 and settled on the NW 10-38-1-5. Two girls, **Gertrude** and **Ali** were born here and started school at Burnt Lake. Like other children in the district at that time, the girls didn't speak English, but soon mastered the language. Money was scarce and so Mr. Rintinen trapped muskrats for additional income.

The family left about 1935 and went to British Columbia.

THE ROLSTON FAMILY

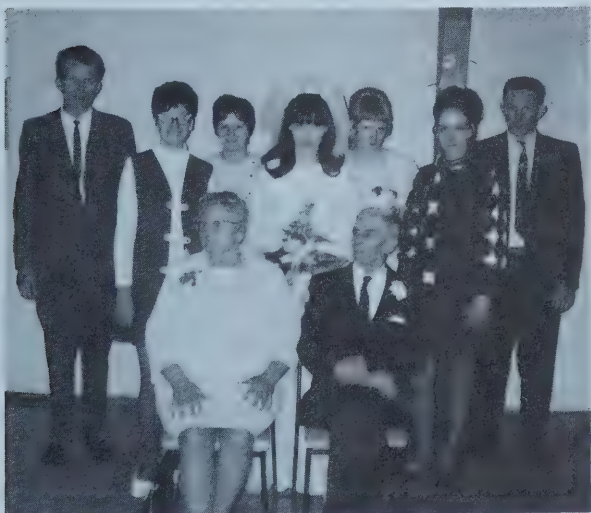
Mr. and Mrs. Jim Rolston and four sons arrived in the Burnt Lake district in 1914 from County of Armagh, Ireland. They settled on SW¼ 4-38-1-5, buying it from Mr. A. Agren. Mr. and Mrs. Olof Wold and son Raymond and wife Jean and family are living there now.

In 1919-20 the Rolston's moved to California, where three daughters were born.

LUTTON

Minnie Lutton arrived with the Rolston family in 1914 from Ireland. She attended the Burnt Lake School. In 1918 she married Einar Soderberg, who had just arrived home from France where he had served for two years in the army (World War I).

They have three sons: **William** in Edmonton, **Richard** on a farm at Olds and **Harold**, assistant postmaster in Red Deer, Alberta. Minnie passed away in Edmonton, February, 1976.



The Reynolds Family — 1970. L. to R. — Leonard, Joyce Robertson, Sherry Bushnell, Myrna Norem, Gloria Reynolds, Gwen Huebner, Raymond. Front — Lillian and Arthur.

NORM AND MAUREEN ROOKE

Norm Rooke was born in Ponoka, Alberta in 1940 and Maureen McQueen in Mercoal, Alberta in 1942. They both moved to Edmonton where they were married in February, 1961.

Norm and Maureen and family moved onto an acreage on the NE 15-38-1-5 in the Burnt Lake district in the fall of 1965. They rented the buildings from Wm. Schreuder, who was living in California at the time. During this time, Norm hauled propane for Mutual Propane Ltd. and kept a few animals.

After the Schreuders moved to their acreage in 1967, the Rookes lived with Dennis Johanson for awhile. Later they worked for Gordon Johnson of the Pine Hill district, for one year and then moved back to live at Dennis' again. In 1968 they moved to Edmonton where they presently (1976) own and operate their own business, The NMR Transport.

Norm and Maureen have one son, **Mitchell** born in 1962 and one daughter, **Roxanna** born in 1966. They were always willing to help their neighbors and took an active part in the community. The Rookes are both avid curlers and enjoy fishing and big game hunting.

THE SARMANS

David and Lydia Sarman settled in the Rocky Mountain House district about 1912, a year after their marriage. Mrs. Sarman had come from Finland with her parents, the Lund family, in about 1901. Mr. Sarman had left Finland for Canada a few years later.

The Rocky district was not a very good farming district in those days, and in 1921 the Sarmans sold their homestead and bought the John Soberg farm at Burnt Lake, SW 16-38-1-5. The quarter section was across the road from the Andrew Halvorson farm, three miles south of Sylvan Lake.

The Sarmans worked hard and made many friends in the Burnt Lake district, the closest being the Halvorsons. In the summer as in winter there was a well worn foot path from the Halvorson kitchen door to the Sarman kitchen door. In the cold of winter it was the custom of Mr. Sarman and Mr. Halvorson to take turns, by the week, in driving the children to and from school.

At the time of their arrival at Burnt Lake the Sarmans had two sons, Einar and Arvi, and one daughter Sadie. In 1928 another son Arne was born.

In 1934 the Sarmans sold their Burnt Lake farm, and with the exception of Einar, who was by then "on his own" in Ontario, the family made a short European trip. On their return they settled in the Rocky Mountain House district.

Einar is married and lives in Edmonton. They have two daughters Dorise Broder and Myrna Sobie and one son Wayne, all of Edmonton. They have six grandchildren. **Sadie** married Elmer Raivio of Rocky Mountain House. They have three sons Allen of Edmonton, Dale of Red Deer and Barry at present in Australia. Sadie and Elmer have seven grandchildren.

Mr. Sarman died in 1949 and Mrs. Sarman, Arne and Arvi moved to Eckville. **Arvi** died in 1970 and Mrs. Sarman died in 1974 while living with her two brothers at Sylvan Lake. **Arne**, the youngest son lives at Eckville. He is unmarried.



Dave Sarman Family. Sadie, Mrs. Sarman, Mr. Sarman with Arne, Arvi. Einar missing.

JOHN SAUTER STORY

Mr. John Sauter came from Germany to the United States in 1907. In 1909 he came to Saskatchewan. He visited in the Sylvan Lake area in 1912, as he was acquainted with the Huerlimans west of town. He stayed in the area for two years and again went back to Saskatchewan. Mrs. Sauter was from Austria, coming on her own to Canada in 1928. They were married in this adopted land and farmed for several years south of Wilkie, Saskatchewan. They had two children, **Mary** and **Nick**.

The Sauters made the move to this part of Alberta in April, 1945. They purchased the Joe Mueller farm, NW 16-38-1-5.

Mr. Sauter passed away in 1953. Mrs. Sauter went to Toronto for a few years to live with her daughter, Mrs. M. Thek. She passed away in 1968.

NICK AND LOUISE SAUTER

Nick came with his parents to Burnt Lake in 1945. He continued his schooling in Sylvan Lake. Nick and Louise live on the home farm the NW 16-38-1-5.

Nick was born in Wilkie, Saskatchewan. He has a sister living in Toronto. Louise, whose parents are Kenneth and Dorothy Cameron, grew up in Northern Saskatchewan. Her parents homesteaded in the Big River area. Her father had been an army man most of his life. In due time her parents came to Alberta and have been living in Lacombe since 1950. Louise enjoys hobbies, doing model building and wood working.

Nick's remembrance of unusual weather is the 1951 storm in March, when it was necessary to walk to Sylvan Lake over the snow banks, which were piled up to near the top of the telephone poles in places, and he also brings to mind seeing Stainor Valli from the Marianne district, going to town over the drifted snow with his big tractor that the drifts held up. In Lacombe, Louise recalls a tractor being loaded onto a truck using a snow bank for a loading ramp, which was hard enough to carry the load.

Nick farms, has cattle, of Angus-Shorthorn cross, and does construction work. Louise has been driving a school bus into Sylvan Lake for the past three years on the Kasota route.

DWIGHT AND HILDA SAWYER

I, Dwight, was born in Latham, Kansas, U.S.A. on December 27, 1900. In 1904 I moved with my parents, Jeff and Hattie Sawyer, sister Opal, and three brothers, Burr, Roy and Paul to Battleground, Washington. Dad worked in the lumber camp in the winter and farmed during the summer. The boys milked the cows and went to school. Edward (Ed) was born there. It was a nice place to live, but next to impossible to buy land.

In 1907 Dad got the idea to move to Alberta. After loading a box car of immigrant possessions, and selling all else, they headed for Tees, Alberta. There was no bank at Tees, so to avoid being robbed, Dad and Mother put all their money in \$20.00 gold pieces (\$1500.00) into a shoe, and placed it in the bottom of baby brother Ed's diaper bag, and assigned me (a six year old) to carry it to Canada.

We arrived in Tees March 1907, and settled into a log shack with a sod roof, and when it warmed up, the bed bugs came out of the ceiling and fell down on the bed. Mother thought the roof was leaking.

In 1910 we moved to Dad's homestead, SW 22-43-4-5, being 42 miles west of Ponoka, Alberta. Dad had some good work horses, and for the next three years, he would make three trips a year to Ponoka for the mail and supplies. There was no one living beyond the homestead, so I immediately set out some traps. As the years rolled by and I grew older, my trapline stretched out longer and by 1920 I had three cabins and about fifty miles of snare and trapline to attend.

Then we moved back to civilization and settled down at Joffre, Alberta, from where I travelled, and worked at any job I could get until well into the dirty thirties. Then Hilda Halverson saw me and took me out of circulation and settled me down in the Burnt Lake district. That, ladies and gentlemen, is how I happen to be here writing in this book.

The Sawyer family original Coat of Arms can be found in Bourke's General Armory. The motto recorded with the Sawyer Coat of Arms is: "SEEK AND THOU SHALT FIND".



Hilda and Dwight Sawyer — 1962.

And like so many other jobs that I start, Hilda will now finish this up.

I, Hilda, was born in Ballard, now Seattle, Washington, U.S.A., and arrived here with my parents, John and Katrina Halverson, brother Nick and sister Lydia, in March 1904. I have lived here all my life in the Burnt Lake district, with my family on Dad's homestead on SE 16-38-1-5, until I met and married Dwight Sawyer in 1934.

I attended the one room school. We kids had to carry drinking water from a farmer's well, where we used the rope and wind-lass to bail the water up. Later a well was drilled. The comfort accommodations were in a little shanty out behind the school house. The fire wood had to be carried in for the heater, and of course the ashes had to be carried out. I remember we had bushels of fun among ourselves in those days too.

There were ministers coming out now and again to preach in the Baptist and Mission Friend churches. My father preached in the Baptist church for some time before the 1920's. How we all enjoyed hearing Eric Johanson with his powerful bass, Jonas Smith, tenor, and Mrs. Peter Olson with her melodious alto, at these services in the Baptist church.

I remember well one hot summer day when Dad and I were loading hay way over along the west side of the hay meadow. I was driving a team of oxen, Perch and Tom (Dad had just bought this team from Lars Petterson). I was in the hay rack while Dad was forking the hay up into the rack and I was to do the driving from hay stook to hay stook, tramping and shaping the hay in the rack the best I knew how. Then Wow!, a heel fly hit old Tom, then Perch started to kick, snort and stamp his feet; seconds later all I could see were two tails flagging and waving, and off we were in high gear towards the gully, to stop among the trees and willows. Dad managed to catch himself on the back of the rack and by the time he had stumbled and crawled over the hay to help me with the reins, the oxen had settled down quietly and peacefully. I do remember so well Dad saying, "Am I going to enjoy eating a good stew out of you old fools". But Dad never did get around to taste that stew of his pets, ha!

In 1936 my brother married Mrs. Bertha (nee Olson) Larka. She had two sons. Aynor passed away in 1946, and is buried in the Burnt Lake Cemetery and Elmer passed away in December 1976.

Dwight and I have resided on the north half section 1-38-1-5 since 1934. It is located along the Burnt Lake Trail. The north west quarter my Dad had bought before 1900 from the C.P.R. We raised crops of wheat, oats and barley, mostly barley in the later years, and a mixture of livestock, such as sheep, range cattle, hogs, teams of horses, a milk cow and poultry. We are now enjoying ourselves, having the younger folk do the farming for us.

We now have a paved road, whereas a few years ago during the wet season it was almost impassable for trucks with loads; horse drawn vehicles were very popular in those days, summer and winter. Now we never see a horse in harness, except fancy saddle steeds going by. We have daily mail service, school bus, cattle-liners, milk, grain, feed and gravel trucks going by without any problems. We also now have the telephone, Calgary Power and the natural gas in our home.

TED SAWYER AND FAMILY

Ted and Millie Sawyer from Lacombe acquired the SE¼ Sec. 1-38-1-W5 in June 1974, arriving here with their family of three children. **Terry**, the oldest girl, was twelve; **Kathy** was coming eleven; and **Jeff**, the youngest and the only boy, was nine. Incidentally, Jeff was named after his great-grandfather, Marion Jefferson Sawyer.

The children were all born in Lacombe and went to kindergarten and school there. They now attend the River Glen School in Red Deer, going in by bus.

The Sawyers all settled into their new life of farming with some cattle, turkeys, cats, and a good dog, Bozo, who looks after "the ranch" while the family goes about its business.

WILLIAM AND ELSIE SCHREUDER

In 1967, Bill and Elsie moved from California to an acreage on NE 15-38-1-5, in the Burnt Lake district. They bought this property from Mr. R. O. Long, who in turn had bought it from Mr. Francis. Stanley Swainson had subdivided the 20 acres on this quarter. It was a tremendous change for the Schreuders from sunny California, both having a job as accountants in an office, to the 40° below weather of Alberta. But during their prior vacations they fell in love with the district and decided that this would be a good place to raise hogs.

They built their farrowing barn in 1967 and the weaner barn in 1969. They sold weaners until 1971 when they built a feeder barn. Bill and Elsie experienced the all time low prices in 1970 and 1971 as far as hog prices were concerned, but they battled it out. Due to lack of labor and land, they had to sell their operation in 1973.

They have the fondest memories of the district, the hospitality, the Christmas concerts, and the fine community spirit.

Presently, 1976, they are living east of Lacombe, and are raising cattle. Bill and Elsie have a family of two, a son **Trevor** born in 1967 and a daughter **Lee** born in 1969.

THE SELAND FAMILY

Mr. and Mrs. Olav Seland lived for 23 years on NW 27-37-1-5. Olav Seland was born in Norway and came to New York, U.S.A. as a young man, and there learned the carpenter trade, specializing in the laying and finishing of hardwood floors. Later, with his wife and two sons, he moved to Saskatchewan and took up a homestead near Merango.

After a few years there the family moved to Drumheller, Alberta where he resided until June, 1932 when they moved to the Burnt Lake district and purchased the quarter section which was then leased by F. K. Johnson. Mr. Johnson's lease expired that fall.

Olav and his sons hastily erected a small frame house on a knoll not far from the road and then left the family there while he and the boys went back to Drumheller to work at his trade to obtain much needed cash.

After Mr. Johnson's crop was cut he offered to move the house to a more suitable location, saying that in the spring there was quite a lot of water between the present location and the road. He made a deal to do the moving in return for having his crop stooked.

The road was not gravelled in those days, and once when one of the boys and his wife came from Drumheller to visit us, they had to make the last few miles carrying shoes and stockings and slugging through the mud. I

don't remember just how they managed to get the car there later.

Some incidents remembered by Mrs. Seland are quoted as "I slew a skunk by knocking it on the head with the back of a rake. But when Olav went to bury it, it wasn't there! I'll dare say it had a terrible headache!" Also "the time Agnes came home from school and said the Johnsons were hiding a cow. I asked why they were hiding it?, but when the matter was explained, they were "skinning" the cow." She had never been out of the city before.

The younger children, Agnes, Leona and Ralph attended the Pine Hill School. Later **Agnes** took nurses training in the Portland Sanatorium and Hospital, Portland, Oregon, U.S.A. where she obtained her R.N. B.Sc. degrees. She is married to Gentry Warren and they reside in San Diego, California. **Leona** married Eugene Wettstein of Stettler and they reside in Lacombe. They have three grown-up children. **Ralph** received his B.A. degree at Andrews University, Michigan and taught for some years at Canadian Union College. He and his family reside south of Sylvan Lake on a farm.

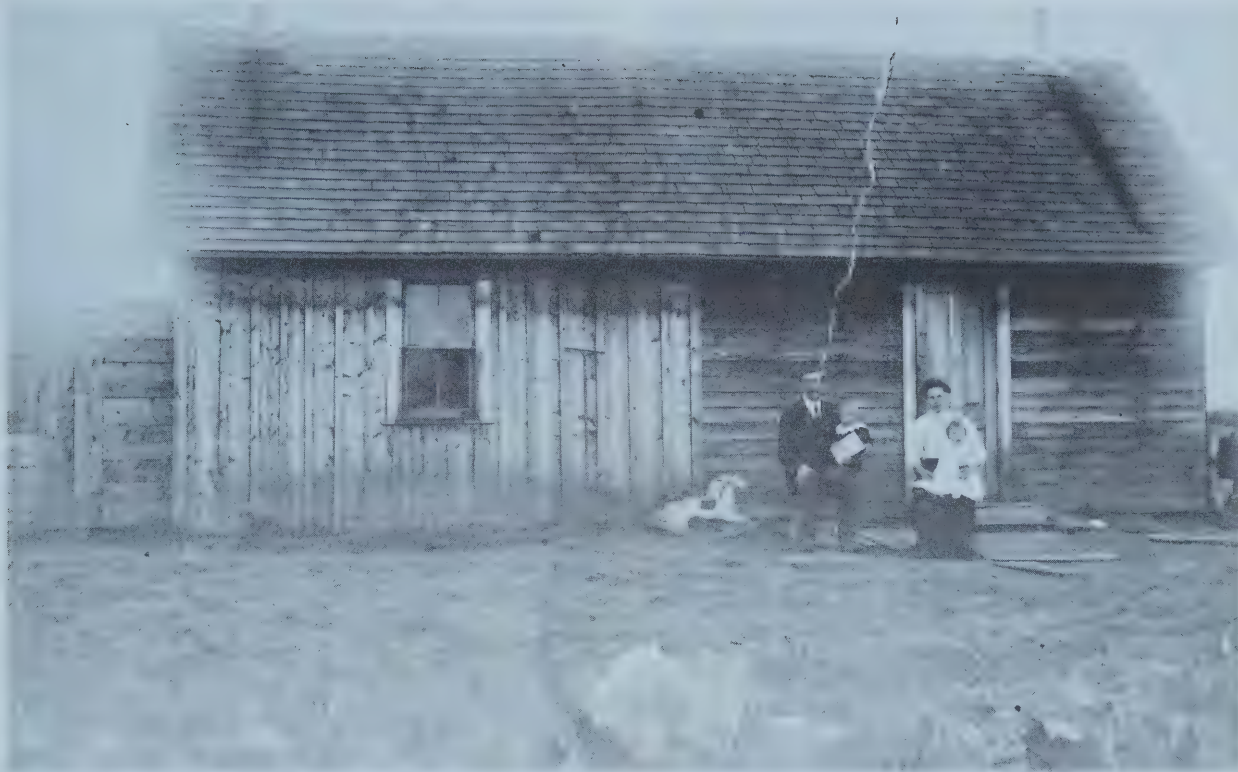
In the fall of 1955 Mr. and Mrs. Seland sold the farm and after spending that winter in Victoria, British Columbia, went to live in Drumheller where Olav died in July, 1962 at the age of 84 years. Mrs. Seland, now Mrs. Fred Pearson, lives in Lacombe.

OSCAR SELSTROM

Oscar Augaton Selstrom was born at Vilhelmina, Sweden, December 12, 1874. On his arrival in Canada in 1899 he made his home with the M. Mattson family. His inability to speak English was such a handicap that he immediately enrolled as a pupil in the Swan Lake School, whose teacher at the time was Mr. Egelton. Oscar soon was speaking fluent English, and over the years this benefited his neighbors as well as himself. He was often



Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Selstrom — 1935 or '36.



Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Selstrom with Hugo and Olga 1908 — Rocking horse gift to Hugo from godmothers Mrs. Erickson and Mrs. Mattson.

able to aid them in business and other transactions that required the knowledge of English.

His first job in Canada was blasting rock for the railroad on the Spiral Tunnel at Field, British Columbia. In 1901 Oscar returned to Burnt Lake and on June 23, 1904 was married to Bertha Erickson. They moved out to his homestead on NE 26-37-1-5. In order to get established, they worked for a short time for Erik Johanson, and Oscar also worked as a carpenter in the area.

His next job was as timber inspector for the Dominion Government, inspecting ties and timber. Following this, he became a road surveyor with the Alberta Department of Public Works. The years went by and as the family was growing up, the Selstroms went into cattle raising and later into mixed farming.

Oscar and Bertha had four sons and four daughters — **Hugo, Olga, Roy, Gordon, Anna, Ruth, Carl, and Levina**. Oscar died December 28, 1948 and Bertha followed June 15, 1953. Both are buried in the Burnt Lake Cemetery. Of the family, Hugo and his wife Mary are retired and live at Sylvan Lake. Olga married Gus Mannerfeldt of the Centerville district. Roy was born February 19, 1910. He left school at the age of 15 years and worked for different farmers in different parts of Alberta during the summers and did a lot of work in lumber mills at Rocky Mountain House in the winters. He finally rented the Braton farm at Evarts and farmed there until it was sold to Peter Stewart. Roy now lives at Benalto. He has one son Craig and a daughter Patricia. He also has a granddaughter Mandy. Gordon Alexander was born June 7, 1913. He went to school at Burnt Lake

and was very well liked for his easy going manners and sense of humor — often the teacher's pet. He loved the outdoors, hunting and trapping, and was a lover of animals. He helped farmers and neighbors at busy times and worked in lumber camps during the winters. During the war he joined the R.C. ENG. After his discharge he bought land at Caroline, Alberta and began improvements but due to failing health he was hospitalized and passed away July, 1974, due to a heart attack. Anne writes of herself. "I was born and grew up and went to school in Burnt Lake. Tom Leithead was working for the municipality and we met in 1940. He enlisted and went overseas. He returned September 2, 1943 and we were married in December of that year. This was the beginning of our career as farmers. Though I loved every minute of the life on the farm we had many ups and downs as we lived beside a creek which went on the rampage in the spring when there was too much snow and rain. At one time we moved out for a week and stayed with our neighbors Hal and Patsy Craig. With their four young ones and four of our own there was much excitement and many games of King Petro were played. In 1957 we left the farm and my husband went back to construction work. We bought a house in Calgary as the company head office is there. We have had the pleasure of seeing and exploring many interesting places from border to border in both British Columbia and Alberta as the contracts are sometimes even in more remote areas — it's really an education in its own. We have two sons and two daughters. Thomas William (Bill) has a diploma in Mech. Tech., B.S.C., M.M. Eng., and works for

Imperial Oil as design consultant. At the time he and his wife Marion and daughter Alison are residing in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia. Our second son Garry Robert has a B. Sc. in Forestry, graduating from the University of Missoula, Montana, U.S.A. He is chief forester for Revelstoke Mills in Alberta. His wife Christine and two boys Jason and Calvin live in Calgary. Our eldest daughter Marilyn Anne graduated from Forest Lawn High School and works as supervisor in loans in the Royal Bank of Canada. She married Constable Dwight Scheuerman of the Calgary City Police. Our youngest daughter Margaret Isabel (Peggy) also graduated from Forest Lawn High School and took one year at Mount Royal College in Child Psychology and Training. She is employed at Forest Lawn Treasury Branch. Peggy married Ron Barrett of Calgary, a student at the University of Calgary, studying to be a teacher."

Hazel adds her husband Carl's story. "Carl Selstrom, youngest and fourth son of Oscar and Bertha Selstrom was born February 26, 1919 along with twin sister Ruth, in the old log house on the homestead in the Burnt Lake district. Carl grew up and up to be six foot six inches tall. He took his schooling at the Burnt Lake school. Bert Cody taught Carl in his final year of school. The boys at school figured they had a good ball team with Bert pitching and Carl catching. This team worked fine together until Carl missed one of Bert's curves, and it knocked him cold. This ended Carl's baseball career. His favorite pastimes were hunting and trapping and playing his guitar. He farmed the home place and helped the neighbors with harvesting and haying. Carl took a short turn in the army but was discharged in 1942. On July 20, 1943 Carl married Hazel Middleton of Joffre, farming the home place for one year then moving to Benalto in 1944. They bought the grain cleaning business from Tom Leithead and Hugo Selstrom. Carl became very interested in cleaning registered grains, also commercial grain cleaning. He was in business for 30 years and made many friends from Alix west to Rocky Mountain House and Ponoka, south to Olds. Airplanes and flying interested Carl so in due time he took flying lessons and got his pilot's license and purchased a plane. He flew many years and had many exciting experiences. He went into crop spraying, doing this for five springs until his health wouldn't permit it. He also worked five summers for Alberta Hail Board as an adjuster. Carl died April 6, 1970 at 51 years of age of leukemia. Carl and Hazel have five girls; Jean born September 16, 1946. She took a secretarial course and married Wayne Gilbert. They have one daughter Kari. Wayne is an auto body mechanic. Jean works for United Mobile Homes. They own a home in Calgary. Beverly was born February 15, 1950. She took her schooling in Benalto and Sylvan Lake, finishing her education at the University of Alberta in Edmonton. She married Jim White and they have one son Holden. Jim enjoys finishing antique furniture, and is finishing university in the fall. Jim and Bev have a home in Sylvan Lake. Bev teaches grade IV in Sylvan Lake. Carleen was born January 23, 1952 and took her schooling in Benalto and Red Deer School. She married Dick Huebner and have one son Drew. Dick is a dispensing optician and is manager of Hauck Opticians. They have a home in Red Deer. Susan was born November 28, 1955, and took all her schooling in Benalto and Sylvan Lake and works in

Red Deer. Kelly was born May 3, 1960 and lives at home taking grade XI at Sylvan Lake High School. She's interested in skiing, riding and training her horses. Hazel and Kelly still reside in Benalto where Hazel works as a bookkeeper for Loughheed's Fertilizer and Supply."

FRED E. SJOQUIST

Fred Sjoquist was born in Sweden and in 1901 came with his folks to the United States. Later, Fred travelled to Saskatchewan and in April 1913 came to Sylvan Lake to visit his aunt and uncle, Mr. and Mrs. Lars Pettersen. He arrived in Blackfalds and walked on the C.N. Railway to Sylvan Lake. He stayed until 1914, finishing his schooling at Sylvan Dell. Fred stayed the winter of 1914-15 with Mr. Adrian Erickson. In the spring of 1915, together with Levi Erickson, Fred got badly burnt fighting a fire on the Larson quarter. After recuperating from the fire, he returned to Saskatchewan and worked on threshing crews until Christmas at which time he returned to the United States.

After "ramming" around the United States for 10-12 years, he didn't see anything as good as Burnt Lake so in 1928 came back, settling on the C.P.R. quarter of SW 15-38-1-5 where he farmed until 1962 when he sold it to Hartley Johanson.

This quarter was once the campgrounds for the Cree and they still came back every summer after Fred had settled on it. There was a heavy stand of spruce here and many logs have been taken out. Several neighbor's barns were built from logs sawed here.

Times were hard during the depression and Fred worked in the lumber camps at Rocky Mountain House in the winters to supplement his income.

Fred has always been an ardent fisherman and also enjoys the game of curling.

After he sold the farm, he bought an acreage north of Sylvan Lake where he lived for four years, then moved to Sylvan Lake and in September 1973 he became a guest of the Sylvan Lake Lodge.



Sawing lumber on Fred Sjoquist's farm. Andy Niemczyk, Frank Dallaire, Fred Sjoquist. Watching — Betty Cutler and Marion Dallaire.

MR. AND MRS. JONAS SMITH — by Lydia Bergstrom and Dwight Sawyer.

In 1899 a family of five arrived from Sweden who were to occupy one of the two rooms in our house while they were getting established on NE-16-38-1-W-5-M. Their name was Sjoberg, a name the English couldn't



Jonas (Sjoberg) Smith — Their first home — turn of the century.

pronounce, so my mother (Mrs. Katrina Halverson) suggested they change it to SMITH, and the name stuck to this day.

Christmas Eve 1899 was rather exciting, as Mrs. Smith (Sjoberg) became very ill, and we kids were told to be quiet. There being no snow at the time, we were playing 'anti-high-over' at our house and the ball would land and bounce on the roof, thus making a terrible racket. Next thing we saw my Dad (John Halverson) take off with the old mare (Fanny) and the two wheel cart, soon to be back with Mrs. Carl A. (Karen) Persson, (a trained nurse from Stockholm Sweden). Then we children were all hustled off to stay at the Agren home. We liked this very much, as the Agrens had no floor in their house, and we could run around bare footed. However, the next day we received the news that a baby-boy had been left with Mrs. Smith, and his name was Edwin (Ed). The Smith family now consisted of Jonas and Brita Smith, and children **Richard, John, Freda and Edwin**. The Smith family are all gone now, Freda and Ed being the last ones and they never married. Freda stayed on the homestead farm to keep house and help brother Ed until her passing. She milked cows, raised poultry and always set a good



1914 — Back — Ed Smith, John Smith, Nick Halverson, Charlie Anderson. Front — Carrie Anderson, Freda Smith, Hilda Halverson, Lydia Halverson.

table. Ed was mechanically inclined and when he wasn't hunting, he was working with some old motors in the shop. He (Ed) used to say, "That when his folks all passed away, he found himself with a farm and no money, so he went to the bank to borrow some money to put in the crop that spring, then in the fall he'd go back to the bank to get some more money to take off the crop, and has been doing that every year since".

All the Smith family are buried in the Burnt Lake Cemetery, except Richard who went to Sweden for health reasons in 1913-14 and died there.

Freda and Ed have been truly missed in this community.

JOHN SMITH

Jonas and Brita Sjöberg, along with their three children John, Freda and Richard, arrived from Sweden in 1898. After settling in the Burnt Lake district, another son, Edwin, was born Christmas Day, 1898. After residing in the country for a while, it was brought to their attention, by neighbors, that Canadians would have difficulty pronouncing "Sjöberg". After some consideration, Jonas decided to change the family name to Smith.

John had not been able to go to school regularly for he, as well as many other boys of that time, had to help do the many chores on the farm, so he was not able to continue much past the third grade. However, he educated himself and obtained steam engine papers and owned and operated one of the few steam engines in the area. He did custom breaking and threshing.

John homesteaded in Gull Lake, Saskatchewan for about four years, then came back to Burnt Lake and



Ellen and John Smith's Wedding — 1922.



John Smith on steam engine — about 1927.

bought the SW 21-38-1-5. He cleared the land, built a house, and married Ellen Johanson, daughter of Eric and Dorothea Johanson on December 19, 1922. They had a family of four children.

John was very interested in the community life of the district. He was a Councillor of the Golden West Municipality for many years, M.C. at public functions and sang tenor in quartets. He was also an avid curler with the Sylvan Lake Curling Club and managed to bring home many trophies.

Although John passed away March 11, 1931, Ellen remained on the farm. Even with the responsibility of raising the children, she managed to continue, with hired help, to work the farm through the depression and ensuing war year.

Ellen still lives in the area, residing in the Sylvan Manor. With the death of her eldest son, **Algot**, in March, 1932, Ellen now has only three children; **Elsie** Ewing of Red Deer, **Eleanor** Reed of Calgary and **Harold** (Sam) Smith, who lives on the family farm. The original home burned March 27, 1976 with the loss of Harold and Mary's eldest son, Miles.

THE SANDY SMITH STORY by Ellen Smith

Sandy Smith was born December 18, 1890 in Madison, Wisconsin. The Smiths, a year or so later moved to Eugene, Oregon. In 1902 they moved to Alberta to the Poplar Ridge district where Sandy went to school. In 1904 Sandy's Dad was accidentally killed by a falling tree while cutting and delivering wood to the C.P.R. round-house in Red Deer. From this time on, Sandy took the place of an adult. He worked for many years for Frank Dallaire, a farmer in the Burnt Lake district. He worked in lumber camps in the winter hauling lumber and railroad ties. When the irrigation project in the Brooks, Alberta area was started, Sandy drove an outfit of horses for Frank Dallaire, together with many other men from this area.

In 1919 he married Ellen Lindholm, youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. G. Lindholm, pioneer family of the Burnt Lake district. Not long after we were married, we moved to the Marianne district and rented the farm, now owned by S. Valli, NE 7-38-1-5, where we farmed until the spring of 1931. During our farming days in the Marianne district, we boarded the school teachers. We milked cows and raised pigs. Sandy was always very proud of his livestock, especially his horses. He kept very



Sandy Smith with his 8 horses — about 1932.

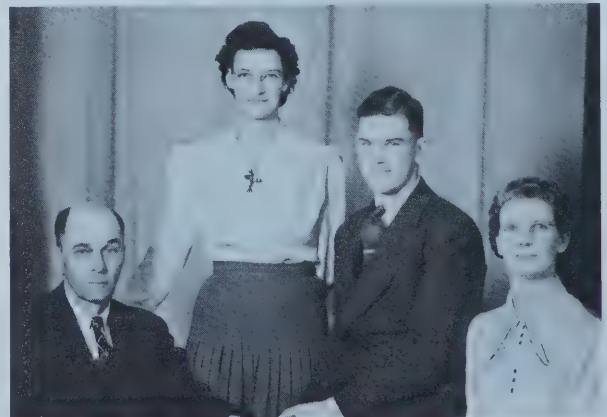
good horses and well matched teams. We had our ups and downs but managed without too many problems.

In the spring of 1931 we moved to the Sid Shaw farm, SE 30-37-1-5, in the Centreville district. When we moved in March, there wasn't enough snow to make good sleighing. While we were on this property, we got started in Jersey cattle and also Tamworth pigs of which Sandy was very proud. We farmed here until the spring of 1937 when we bought the NW 14-38-1-5, in Burnt Lake, and moved there to continue farming. We sold some of our big horses and bought a Cockshutt tractor.

We kept four horses for our seeding and harrowing and also to cut our grain and do the haying. We farmed there until Sandy took sick and passed away in January of 1947. That same spring, I sold the farm to the Bert Gutau family and moved to Sylvan Lake.

Sandy was very enthusiastic about playing and watching baseball and hockey. He would drive many miles in the winter time if the roads were at all passable, to see a hockey game. In his younger years he played a lot of baseball.

We had two children; **Ida** married Leonard Bystrom of the Pine Hill district where they still live on the farm. **Franklin** married Lorraine Bolton and they live in the West Park district in Red Deer. They have four children; Garry who married Judy Bolze. They live in Red Deer and have one daughter, Yolanda. Sharron married Larry



Sandy Smith Family — 1941. L. to R. — Sandy, Ida, Franklin, Ellen.

Knopp and they live in Red Deer. Lorne lives in Calgary and Vernon is at home.

Before my retirement, I worked at the Provincial Training School for nine years. I now live in my own house at Sylvan Lake. I keep busy and enjoy doing crochet work. I belong to the I.O.D.E. and walk to church when the weather is good.

I enjoy having neighbors and friends come in for a cup of coffee. I also enjoy having my two children, eight grandchildren, and 14 great-grandchildren to come and visit.

THE NILS SODERBERG FAMILY

On June 23, 1911, Lars a full brother, and Nils, a half-brother of Mrs. Eric Johanson, arrived in Red Deer from Sweden. Lars brought his son Hilding, aged 17 years, and daughter Ellen, aged 15 with him but Ellen was detained in quarantine at Halifax for three weeks because of diphtheria. She had to proceed later by herself. Nils' wife, Regina and two little boys, Ingve, four and a half years, and Helge, a year younger, were part of the party as well.

There was a special sports day at the Fair Grounds in Red Deer one day, and it happened that John and Oscar Johanson had driven in with a team and wagon for the event. They met Harry Nelson of the Centerville area who told them that newly arrived relatives of theirs were at the Great West Hotel (located at the corner of 51 Avenue and 49 Street). In the meantime, there was a severe hail storm. The boys found shelter in a shed at the Fair Grounds and afterwards went in search of their relatives. They found the group all in one room with water leaking through the ceiling making many puddles on the floor — not a very nice reception to their new homeland. However, they were happy to see the boys and weren't long in loading their belongings into the wagon. The roads were very heavy and it took a good two hours to drive the ten miles to the farm.

Needless to say Mrs. Johanson was surprised but overjoyed to see someone from home for it was a long 18 years since she had left Sweden. Now she had a large household to care for.

The Nils Soderberg family stayed with Johansons for about three months. During this time Sadie was born. It was during the night of August 22-23. This necessitated a change of plans, for Nils was to have made the freighting trip with groceries to Rocky Mountain House with Eric. Instead, Eric's son Oscar, as a lad of 12, went and his father had the misfortune of breaking his collar bone enroute (see Eric Jacob Johanson's history).

Since Eric Johanson still owned the SE 1-38-1-5, Nils and his family lived in the buildings during the fall of 1911 and stayed there two or three years. They then moved to the NE 31-37-28-4. During that time they farmed this land and the children went to the Shady Nook school. The next move was to NE 2-38-1-5 owned by Eric Johanson and the children went to the Burnt Lake school. Helge recalls Miss Olga Anderson (later Mrs. John Johanson) and Mrs. Plummer as teachers. They had a baseball team and played against other schools in the area.

In 1921 the Nils Soderbergs moved on to the SE 22-38-1-5 and bought the NW of 22 (but never lived on it). The contour of the land on SE 22 was great for skiing in

winter. The teenagers would build up a ski lift so they could glide through the air before landing on the lower hill. Often they crouched under the lift and watched the others try their skill at staying upright until their skis hit the lower run.

One summer day when Ingve and Helge brought their cattle home from pasture and put them in the corral, they roped one of the steers. Helge bravely rode it until it got tired of this sport and raced to the three strand wire fence where the animal stumbled and fell on Helge's left leg. He was glad that the folks were back from haying as his Dad had to apply first aid to the gash that laid him up for several weeks. Even now he relives that event each time he sees the scar.

Nils worked with Eric Johanson considerably throughout the years. He was a good axe man and did some carpenter work as well. Besides doing general farm work, he helped with threshing which at that time was mostly "stack threshing". There were few machines and it took a long time to finish everyone. He did freighting to Rocky Mountain House and for the cold weather, made special gauntlets. He tanned a dog pelt and used this fur for the backs, and made the palm from cowhide. When worn over woollen mitts, they were fantastically warm — a real boon when hauling grain and or freighting. The boys broke horses in the summer and in the winter, trapped muskrats and worked in logging camps. Their mother, too, worked very hard but always remained sunny and kind. She had an unusually sweet disposition.

In 1930 the family decided to go north and located a homestead in the Hines Creek area, where they



Nils Soderberg Family, about 1914. Back — Mr. and Mrs. Soderberg. Front — Ingve, Sadie and Helge.

remained. Both Nils and Regina (Backlund) Soderberg were born in Helgums, Sweden and were both buried in the Waterhole Cemetery, Fairview, Alberta. Nils was born August 16, 1874 and died January 12, 1957 while Regina was born February 7, 1881 and died September 16, 1958.

Ingve married, and is living in Fairview but **Helge** is still a bachelor and living on the homestead. **Sadie** is married (Mrs. Gus Schmit), and lives in Grimshaw.

SOLBERG — LYNNE FAMILIES

John Solberg, a farmer of Norwegian descent, from the Strongfield — Bladworth area of Saskatchewan, came to the district south of Sylvan Lake sometime during the second decade of the century. He bought the SW 16-38-1-5 which had been homesteaded by Fred Agren about 1900. He replaced the homestead shack with a more up to date house which was home to three following owners, the Sarmans, Ammeters and Arlints.

About the same time, Mrs. Solberg's parents Mr. and Mrs. **BERNT LYNNE** bought the quarter to the north of Solbergs, namely NW 16-38-1-5, which had been Oskar Wesslen's homestead. Besides their daughter **Cora** (Mrs. John Solberg), they had two sons, **Hans** and **Alfred**. Also members of the Lynnes household were Mrs. Lynne's brother and sister **Pete** and **Johanna Vang**.

John and Clara Solberg's family consisted of three boys and two girls **Clarence**, **Clifford**, **Sylvia**, **Emma** and **Robert**.

The two families worked closely together. While Pete Vang did most of the farming for the Solbergs, John's interests lay elsewhere and he became manager of the Co-op general store at Sylvan Lake, a position he held for several years.

In 1921 the Solbergs sold their farm to Dave Sarman and moved to Bawlf, Alberta and later to British Columbia. The Lynnes family moved away about the same time.

TOM STEPHENS

Tom and Babe Stephens, farmers from Unity, Saskatchewan, came to Burnt Lake in 1946. Tom and his brother Dick had come to Alberta a short time before to look for land. Dick returned to Saskatchewan but Tom bought the NE 36-37-1-5 from Alfred Batchelor.

Both Tom and Babe had been active in community affairs in Unity and Burnt Lake benefitted from their participation in district activities. For years, Tom had been a hockey player, and the Burnt Lake hockey team profitted from his experience, when he was their coach for several winters. He was also an outstanding mechanic. Babe was a member of the Burnt Lake W.I. and particularly noted for her talent in painting and handicrafts.

In 1951 the Stephens sold their farm to R. Swainson and bought the Court Store at the foot of the South Hill, Gaetz Ave., Red Deer, which they operated until 1960. They moved to Drayton Valley where Tom had a oil tanker outfit in partnership with two other men. Babe passed away there in 1962 and Tom, who is retired, still lives there.

A niece, **Enid Griffin**, lived with them during their residence in Burnt Lake. In 1959 she married Don Balicock and moved to Calgary where she still resides.

The attractiveness of Burnt Lake brought several relatives and friends of Tom and Babe from Unity to the Parkland. In 1946 Tom's nephew Graham and his wife Ruby, came to work first for Dwight Sawyer and then for John Lindman. Later that same year, Tom's brother Ed and nephew George arrived, Ed to farm in Poplar Ridge and George to work on the Soderquist farm. In 1948 Don and Alice Ballantyne, also from Unity and friends of the Stephens, came and settled in the Burnt Lake district.

THE WM. STOCKMAN FAMILY

In 1919, Mr. and Mrs. Stockman, their daughter **Mary**, and son **William** arrived in Red Deer from Forest Grove, Oregon. Their older children, **Maud** (Mrs. George Patterson), **Guy** and **Hazel** remained in the United States. The Stockmans lived in Red Deer for a year and Mr. Stockman worked for a farmer in the Pine Lake area. Here he bought a team of horses and a half a dozen milk cows. Bill had a pet cat, Tige, that they brought with them from Oregon. Tige refused to stay in his box and would spend his time running through the stove pipes which were piled on top of the furniture, and looked as black as sin.

In May, 1920 they moved to Burnt Lake and lived in, what was later the Bjelke home. That was the year of the big snow storm in May, and Bill, then only 12 or 13 years, old, remembers the gophers sitting on top of the huge snowbanks. He also remembers driving over the fences to get to their farm, one half mile west of there.

They bought the east half of section 9-38-1-5. They built a small house and barn and settled down to farming. They were thrifty people, very early risers and had everything in ship shape order. Mr. and Mrs. Stockman were hard workers and had a great pride in their farm. They had a wonderful garden, with many beautiful shrubs and flowers which Mrs. Stockman took care of herself.

Their son Bill went to school at the Burnt Lake school and took his high school in Sylvan Lake. He joined the bank and was transferred to Saskatoon and various other towns and cities. Bill married and had two children, a son and a daughter, living now (1977) in Vancouver.

Mr. Stockman tells of an incident that happened to him in the early days. A wagon load of gypsies came and stopped at their gate and rather than have them come trooping into the house, he went out and spoke to them. He visited with them for a few minutes and then the gypsies went on. Later in the day Mr. Stockman found that a \$10.00 bill that he had in his pocket was missing, but the gypsies were long gone so that was a closed chapter.

Mr. Stockman died on December 25, 1937 and Mrs. Stockman gave up the farm and lived with her daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Sophus Jorgensen in Calgary and then later in Vancouver where she died in April, 1960. Both are buried in the Sylvan Lake cemetery.

THE STUCKEY FAMILY

Vincent A. (Russ) and Marianne Stuckey moved into the Burnt Lake district in 1973. The acreage was purchased from Howard Hawn, SW 26-38-1-5. They lived in the area for one year, leaving the district in May, 1974. The Stuckeys previous home was in Red Deer where they had lived for three years.

Russ was born at Pincher Creek. His parents are Aylmer and Grace Stuckey. He has one sister and two brothers. Marianne also is from that area. Her parents are Henry and Clare Kunkel. She has two brothers. Their schooling was taken in that area and both have a farm background. They were married in 1970 at Pincher Creek.

While living in Burnt Lake, Russ was construction superintendent for Flint Engineering and Construction Ltd. Russ travelled to work in the Rocky Mountain House area for five months while living here. In the winter of 1973-74 the recorded snowfall was 84". There was much drifting too and Russ had to leave his car and walk home the last mile many times or go on ski-doo, sharing the ride with Milt Proctor.

Russ was promoted to District Manager of Flint so sold the acreage to Harold Patrick and moved to an acreage four and one-half miles south of Rocky Mountain House. They enjoyed their neighbors in Burnt Lake and still keep in touch. Russ enjoys curling and golfing and Marianne enjoys doing handicrafts. They have two children, **Shyla Michelle** (1971) and **Dan Allan** (1974).

JOHANN SVEINSON'S FAMILY

A family who contributed much to the development of the Burnt Lake district was that of Johann Sveinson. He was born in Iceland in August 1858, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Sveinn Thorsteinson, who farmed in the northern part of Iceland. It was there he spent his early years, and received his schooling. His parents with their family of eight children, were among the many Icelanders who came to Gimli, Manitoba, in 1876. At first they stayed in Gimli, where six months after their arrival the family suffered a severe blow in the death of their father.

In 1879 the family moved to Pembina, North Dakota, and settled on a farm, but the land was very poor and wet. In 1882 they bought better land two and a half miles north of Mountain, North Dakota.

In 1884 Johann married Steinun Thordarson, who was also born in Iceland. She had emigrated with her parents at the age of 12 years, settling first near Winnipeg then moving to North Dakota.



Mr. and Mrs. Johann Sveinson's Wedding — 1884.

Father, Johann, farmed a quarter section, then rented another quarter section. After a few years he found that the possibilities for making a living for his increasing family were very limited on such poor land. One of his former neighbors, Chris Johnson, a pioneer of the Ridge-wood district, wrote to him reporting favorably on conditions and the availability of homestead land in Central Alberta. In 1900, together with a neighbor Oli Peterson, the families set out for Central Alberta and a new life on a homestead.

The settlers' effects that were brought along included a team of horses, ten head of cattle, a new wagon, and a new six foot binder. This was the only new wagon and binder west of Red Deer, so they were borrowed by all the neighbors. A team and democrat were hired at Joe Smith's Livery Barn. The bridge had been washed out earlier, so the river was forded at the Bannerman Crossing.

The family's first stopping place was at Mr. and Mrs. Henry Reinholt's farm. Mother was a sister of Mrs. Reinholt. They stayed there until a log house was built on the homestead, NW 36-37-1-5. A quarter section was bought from the C.P.R. for the price of \$3.00 per acre, payable over a ten year period. Later on, Mother's father (a widower) came from North Dakota. He took a homestead on the adjoining quarter section, which was also farmed by the family.

The log house was replaced by a two-storey house, built by Henry Reinholt (a carpenter), also two large barns, one for the horses and one for the milk cows. An excellent farmer, father was primarily interested in mixed farming, and with the help of his sons made steady progress. He accumulated a good herd of cows, sheep, and horses. Our family took great pride in the horses which included work horses, drivers, and riding horses.

Mother and Father were of the Lutheran faith, and he was one of a number of men who helped build a Lutheran Church at Markerville. It was quite a distance to go to church, and when unable to go, Father held family worship at home. He taught all the children to read Icelandic. He served as a school trustee on the Burnt Lake school board for fifteen years.

There were twelve children in the family. The Red Deer Fair gave a prize for the largest family attending the fair, and two years in succession it was won by our family. The prize was a hundred pound bag of flour, and a photograph taken by George Fleming.

Father was a quiet hard working man; he didn't enjoy the best of health over a period of years. After two



Sveinsons on horseback — about 1917. L. to R. — Bertha, Emily, Sadie, Marie and Leo.

operations at the University Hospital, he passed away in March 1923 at the age of 67 years. He was buried at the Tindastol Cemetery.

Mother and her youngest son Leo continued on the farm. She was a warm hearted woman, and devoted all her time to her home and family. When the sheep were sheared, she would wash the wool, card and spin it, then knit it into mitts, socks, etc., for the family. She also made time to knit socks for the Red Cross during both World Wars. Over a period of years she lost three daughters and one son. She was an inspiration to all who knew her for her courage and faith in all her trials. After a short illness she passed away at the Red Deer Hospital in June 1947, at the age of 79 years.

There were eight daughters: **Annie** (deceased), Mrs. J. Strong; **Inga**, Mrs. L. Johnstone; **Runie**, Mrs. P. Peterson; **Pauline** (deceased), Mrs. C. Ross; **Bertha**, Mrs. D. Bell; **Sadie** (deceased); **Marie** (deceased), Mrs. S. Hepworth; and four sons: **Swain**, married Struna Sigurdson; **Ellis** (deceased) married Ena Sigurdson; **Paul** married Violet Einarson; and **Leo**.

THE SWAIN SWAINSON FAMILIES

Swain, the eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Johann Sveinson came with his parents and six brothers and sisters from North Dakota in 1900. Six more children were born here. They lived two and a half miles from the school, but there were plenty of horses. Both the boys and girls were good horsemen so they either rode or drove to school and enjoyed it in spite of the weather and bad roads.

From 1913 to 1915, Swain attended the Olds School of Agriculture. This was the first year the school was in operation and Swain was one of the first three boys to enroll. The other two boys were Tom Sigurdson and Einar Stephenson. It was the first time any of the boys had been away from home, but in spite of a certain degree of home-sickness, they enjoyed the two years immensely. There were plenty of young folks around and parties and dances. In August 1975 Swain and his wife attended the 60th re-union of the Olds College and Swain was presented with the 60th anniversary pin, which he proudly wears. There were only six boys left of that first graduating class.

In 1919 Swain married Struna Sigurdson of the Pine Hill district. In the fall of 1918 he had a house built on the NW 2-38-1-5; with many renovations, they have lived in the same house ever since. There were ten children and a young grandson brought up here and they thrived in spite of crowded quarters and other handicaps, which they took in their stride. The children attended the Burnt Lake school, only one mile away and finished in Sylvan Lake, Red Deer, etc. There are 46 grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

Alfred, the eldest boy, served in the Second World War as a bombardier in the Air Force. He saw action in Sicily, Italy and Northern Africa. He was a Pilot Officer in the Air Force. After his discharge he purchased his grandfather Sigurdson's farm in the Pine Hill district and married Alberta Grimson in 1946. They had three children, Wesley, Anne and Dorothy May. Tragedy overtook the young couple, and on December 7, 1953, they and a neighbor, Gordon Boltwood were all instantly killed by being run over by a truck near Wetaskiwin. Wesley, then four years old, was brought up by his grand-



Mr. and Mrs. Swain Swanson and grandchildren on Swain's 75th birthday — 1965.

parents, Mr. and Mrs. Swain Swanson; Anne was brought up by her uncle and aunt, Mr. and Mrs. Earl Grimson; Dorothy May was brought up by her uncle and aunt Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Gillette. Mr. Boltwood had two small children, and the next year Mrs. Boltwood and the children went back to England to live.

On August 14, 1960, the Pine Hill Memorial Cabin, built by the F.U.A.'s Pine Hill local 1049, was dedicated in an open-air ceremony to Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Swainson and Gordon Boltwood, killed in a highway crash while on their way to an F.U.A. convention in Edmonton in 1953.

Rev. I. P. MacSween of Strathcona Presbyterian Church in Edmonton conducted the dedication service. A memorial plaque was unveiled by 11 year old Wesley Swainson, son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Swainson. Also present were the couple's other two children, Anne, 10 and Dorothy, 8.

Richard, the second boy, married Heather Steele. There are five children, Gregory, Kenneth, Devon, Susan and Roger. This family also had a tragedy in their lives. Dick died very suddenly from a heart attack on October 1, 1965 leaving his wife with the five young children. Greg



Dedication of cabin at Gold Eye Lake in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Swainson.

has a degree in Advertising Art and works for Modern Press in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. Kenneth is a chartered accountant, working in Edmonton. Devon is apprenticing as an electrician. Susan is in the Education faculty at the Red Deer College, and Roger just graduated from Grade 12 at the Composite High School.

Roy (separate story).

Geraldine, worked in the Treasury Branch before she married William Haldane of Olds. They lived in Nelson, British Columbia until 1958 when they moved to Red Deer where Bill runs an appraisal service and real estate. There are five children. Donald is Registrar at the Simon Fraser University, British Columbia. Sandra, a graduate nurse, is nursing in the hospital at Penticton, British Columbia. Robert is attending university in Boston, Massachusetts on a hockey scholarship. William graduated this year (1976) from the Composite High School in Red Deer. Gary is in elementary school at home.

Stanley and Bryan (separate stories).

Helen was a teacher for several years before she married Hugh Mogensen. Hugh has worked for many years with Canadian Industrial Gas and Oil and is manager of Foreign Explorations. He has travelled extensively to various parts of the world and was stationed for three years in London, England. There are six children, five daughters and one son. Karen, the eldest, is in the Education faculty at the University of Calgary. Faye won a scholarship to Queens University in Kingston, Ontario and will be attending there this fall (1976) taking Arts and Science. Jean, Ruth, Catherine and Richard, not yet six years old, are all attending school at home in Calgary.

Pearl was a Laboratory Technician and worked in the Red Deer Hospital before she married Glen Nelson, farmer and carpenter in the Bentley district. She has been working part time in the Parson's Clinic for the past four years. There are four children, a boy and three girls. Bradley, graduated from Lacombe High School and works with his father on the farm and on oil rigs. Jane, taking Education in the University of Calgary, was married to Philip Moore in 1975. Holly and Beverley both at home are attending school at Bentley.

Winnifred, the youngest daughter, won a Wheat Pool Scholarship and took Social Services at the University of Alberta. She married Robert Thompson of Edmonton, now an ordained minister of the United Church. They have been stationed at various points in Alberta and have been at St. Martin's Church in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, for the past three years. There are three children, Peter, Margaret and Nancy, all at school busy with church choir, bands, etc.

John Andrew (separate history).

Wesley, a grandson, son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Swainson, graduated from Red Deer Composite High School and took two years at Olds. Wes married Shirley Peters of Calgary in 1970. They have two small children. Wes worked as field salesman for the Red Deer Co-op and now farms his father's land in the Pine Hill district.

Swain and his wife have always taken an interest in the community, school, Community Centre, U.F.A.; Mrs. Swainson has always been an ardent supporter of the Women's Institute. They belong to the Knox



Mr. and Mrs. Swain Swainson and Mr. and Mrs. T. O. Langton on Langton's 60th Anniversary — 1975.

Presbyterian Church in Red Deer, and Swain is an Elder in the church. They have raised grain, cattle and pigs on the farm. Swain has not been actively engaged in farming for the past six years but they live on the farm and enjoy their sons' and grandsons' farming operations.

There was one crop that they were particularly proud of. In 1947 they had 44 acres of new land in registered Thatcher wheat. Stanley and Bryan had cleared this land the year before on NE 4-38-1-5. It was a wonderful crop, and it was straight combined in the fall. It yielded 53 bushels to the acre, graded No. 1 hard, and Mr. Murray, former principal of Olds, sold it to a seed house in the U.S.A. for \$3.75 a bushel.

Swain and his wife enjoyed two trips to England; they visited Wales and Scotland. While in London, England, they were the guests of Mrs. Gordon Boltwood. The first trip was in 1968, the second in 1974 when they spent six weeks with their son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Mogensen, then stationed in England. They enjoyed the beautiful scenery in England, Scotland, and Wales, the marvellous old castles and cathedrals, the beautiful parks with their quantities of trees, shrubs and flowers, the theatres, museums, and other points of interest, too numerous to mention.

They have lived 57 years in this district, enjoying good health for themselves and children. "We have wonderful friends and neighbors; to them all, we say 'Thank you'."

ROY SWAINSON

I was born November 30, 1923, the third son of Mr. and Mrs. Swain Swainson, brought up on the family farm and attended the Burnt Lake school and took correspondence courses. Cash was very scarce in those days so when I was about ten, I decided to hunt crow and magpie eggs. The government was paying 2¢ an egg, so every available moment I was hunting eggs and had crow and magpie eggs in cans all over the place, much to the consternation of my mother. I was fortunate I had two

elder brothers who were faithfully helping my father on the farm. With some of the money from the first eggs I sold, I went on a shopping spree in Red Deer. I bought myself a pair of gray flannel slacks, a blue pull-over sweater and a white shirt. I felt as grand as King Solomon.

When I was 15, instead of going to high school as my parents were insisting, I went trapping in the wilderness close to Nordegg. I was going to make \$10,000.00 trapping coyotes. This was in the winter of 1938-39. A neighbor boy, Carl Selstrom, started off with me but soon tired of the long days and nights with no game except squirrels, and went home. After some time, being alone in that wilderness was more than I could take and I tramped many miles to find Bill Burr, elevator man from Sylvan Lake, who was trapping in that area. It was good to come home to a companion. I trapped there until spring but never saw a coyote, nothing but squirrels. I had 200 of them which I sold for 25¢ a piece, a far cry from the \$10,000.00 I expected to make.

I started trapping muskrats on Burnt Lake in the spring of 1939. They were very plentiful and I trapped in the spring of 1940 and 1941 too. The price was \$3.50 for a pelt. I also had a few mink but the price went down so I gave them up.

In the spring of 1941 I bought a Massey Harris tractor from Mr. Bloom, Sylvan Lake, the first tractor we had on the farm.

On October 1, 1941 I enlisted in the Royal Canadian Navy and served in the Pacific, Atlantic, British waters and the Mediterranean, on cruisers, destroyers, frigates and aircraft carriers. The last ship I was on was the aircraft carrier, the Warrior. I retired from the Navy with the rank of Lieutenant in 1947.

I came home and bought the NE 25-37-1-5 from my father. This was the former Lewis farm. I built a temporary house and converted the old house and barn into brooder houses for the young turkeys I planned to raise.

In the fall of 1947 I married Margaret Gronnestad, a teacher of the Burnt Lake district and together we started raising turkeys by the thousands. My first turkey



Roy Swainson on his turkey ranch — 1947.

business dated back 11 years, when at the age of 14, I bought 500 turkey poults with high hopes of establishing my career. I was going to have the biggest turkey farm in Alberta. But tragedy struck when a fire in the brooder house consumed the poults, brooder house and equipment.

The spring of 1948 we had 4,250 turkey poults at the Warrior Turkey Ranch. We had trouble with the young poults piling up in corners of the brooder house and many would smother before the night was over. Margaret, jokingly suggested she sing lullabies to them to put them to sleep, so she would meander from brooder to brooder crooning lullabies to get the baby turkeys to sleep and it seemed to have a soothing effect on the turkeys and they would settle down to sleep. A new 33 by 100 foot brooder was built that summer. Floors were made on the slant to reduce cleaning operations. Brooder stoves were placed in each pen for warmth. I ordered 2,550 Bronze turkeys and 1700 Beltsville Whites. Of the 4,250 poults ordered, 3,500 survived. That winter I sent three of the Beltsville Whites to the Toronto Winter Fair and got a first and a second prize for the hens and the young tom took second place. That fall we sold 1,500 mature birds for the Christmas market with the balance to be sold later. Raising turkeys is not a cheap undertaking. First there is the cost of the poults, each turkey grown to market size, 15 or 16 pounds, takes 100 pounds of feed. Three thousand gallons of fuel oil, two tons of oyster shell and the same amount of calcium grit was used for 1,100 breeding hens during the year.

In 1951 we bought the NE 36-37-1-5 from Tom Stephens and Margaret and I and our four boys lived there until 1954 when we moved to Red Deer. For the next few years I was busy in real estate, mining and the oil business.



Roy and Margaret Swainson's boys. Donnie, Bill, Clem and Jim — 1960.

In 1968 I staked a magnesite deposit on the flanks of Mt. Eon and Mt. Brussilof in southeastern British Columbia which is not far from the Alberta border. This is known as the largest and purest deposit of magnesite in the world. Much drilling and engineering has been done and production is expected in the not too distant future.

STANLEY N. SWAINSON FAMILY

Stanley N. Swainson, fifth child of Swain and Struna Swainson of Burnt Lake, married Dorlene E. Blades, second or third child (she has a twin sister, Donny Anderson) of Mr. and Mrs. James H. Blades, old time residents of Red Deer, in July of 1949.

Before their marriage, Stanley attended schools in Burnt Lake, where he was known as a peace maker, Shady Nook and Red Deer. He graduated from high school in the latter; at which time he joined his dad in full time farming, giving up hopes of furthering his education because of his dad's need of his help. During his high school days he was an Air Cadet. Two years later, he joined the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints and served a six month church mission in British Columbia. When he came home a Sunday School was organized in Red Deer and he was called to be its leader. This was in May of 1949. During his teens and first years of his marriage, he was a very enthusiastic hockey player, playing for the "famed" Burnt Lake team and the old 78th Battery team for the city of Red Deer.

Dorlene E. Blades was born in Leduc, Alberta, moving to Red Deer with her parents, an older sister and twin sister, when she was only three months old. It was in Red Deer where she received her elementary, part of her junior high and senior high schooling. She took correspondence schooling in grades six, seven and eight and missed two years of school while home with a heart condition. In her early teens, Dorlene and her twin Donny became the first converts in Red Deer to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, and after graduating from high school, went on to that church's Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah, U.S.A. During their high school days, Dorlene and her twin worked part time at Eaton's Dept. stores and at Gaetz-Cornett Drug and Book store. If Donny's customers at Gaetz-Cornetts received a confused look when being told they wanted "the usual", it was because twin Dorlene was doing a stand in job for her sick sister Donny, and no one knew the difference, not even the boss!! During school days, they confused teachers, even to the point at university when twin Dorlene "stood in" in class for twin Donny. Dating days were double fun when they traded off their dates! However, they met their equals in their husbands who claim they've never got them mixed up yet. That is from the front, at least! During the years of raising their children, each twin's children has known and called their mom's twin as merely "my other mommy".

Just before he was married, Stan purchased the NE 4-38-1-5 from his dad which was commonly known as the Asplund quarter. In the spring of 1949 Stan hired Art Reynolds, a local carpenter to help him build a house. Stan's father and brothers also helped, also Dorlene and his sister Pearl who drove many a shingle nail in shingling the roof. Electricity had come into the area that year and Stan was able to put in modern plumbing for his city bride. The family just plain out grew the original 25' by 33' bungalow in 12 years. When their eighth child, Philip,

was one year old, they added a 30' by 15' addition which helped immensely. In the second year of their marriage land was cleared and a barn and corrals were built. In the years to follow a lawn was made, sidewalks laid, a double garage built and pad laid. In 1969 a large tract of trees was cut down by caterpillars run by Duke Bell, just west of their house which was cleared and grass sown for a large play and picnic area. Rows of shelter trees were planted north of their yard in 1972. A large dairy barn was built in 1966 and a large shop in 1975. All the labour being done by the family.

After his marriage, Stan continued to farm with his father. His older brothers Alf, Dick and Roy, all had farms of their own. Dick had a trucking business also. Stan's younger brother Bryan, bought the NE 15-38-1-5 and came into the family farming operation with his dad and himself. Stan and Bryan rented more land including a half section from their brother Dick. So in a short time they were farming several hundred acres.

In 1951, in the second year of their marriage, Stan and Dorlene felt they should give turkey raising a try. They were motivated by Stan's brother Roy. It was in March, 1950 when Stan and Roy went to Ponoka for two car loads of turkey poults. On their way home a sudden March blizzard came up. They finally had to leave one car in the road, half way up the hill just a half mile west of Stan's place and shovel and push a great deal to get the other car into Stan's yard. When they went back for the other car, prepared for the worst, with a door for a sleigh and blankets, the road was drifted two to three feet and they soon realized it was hopeless to try to get the car home. So they fashioned a sleigh out of the door to get the poults home. The weather hadn't turned that cold and the young turkeys survived the trip fine. The storm continued all the next day and by that time the car on the road was completely covered with snow except for a small circle on the roof. The drifts were so high you could touch the telephone wires on most roads. The drifts were also so hard you could ride horses on top of them. At any rate, Stan and Dorlene were to see their car buried in snow for the next six weeks as the M.D. had no equipment that could clear that particular stretch of road. When it was finally cleared, it took a huge cat with a snow plow on the front to do it. Then the road was like travelling between two mountains of snow as the drifts were eight feet and more in places.

The turkey adventure was not to Stan and Dorlene's liking and did not last too long. They tried pigs but they too were not liked. It was about this time that they started milking a few cows and shipped to the Condensary. They expanded this project gradually until in 1966 they had a herd of 70 cows. A dairy barn was built that year and Stan and his family started shipping fluid milk. It was a great advancement over the old way. In 1969 an upright Harvester silo was built and an addition to the barn. This proved to be a great labour and feed saver. In July, 1974 the dairy herd was sold and Simmental cattle were purchased which proved to be the most uninspired thing the family ever did.

In 1957 Stan took over his brother Bryan's farming operations because the latter had accepted a job with the caterpillar dealership in Red Deer. His brother Jack came into the farming operation in 1964 after attending the University of Alberta. Stan's eldest son Rick came



Stan Swainson Family — 1973. Rick holding Rebecca, his wife Wendy, Wenda, David, Philip, Dordene and Stan, Judy. Sitting — Dian, Stephen, Laura and Sharon.

into the business in 1970 and his nephew Wes in 1974. At the time of writing, the four are jointly farming 2,500 acres of cropland.

Over the years Stan and Dordene became parents of eleven children, five boys and six girls; **Richard, Wenda, Laura, David, Diane, Sharon, Stephen, Philip, Judy, Paula and Teddy.** They have been and are the joys and rewards of their lives. They are a happy, aggressive, athletic lot with an additional love for music and drama thrown in. They have brought honor and failure home and all have learned from both. Dordene has been asked many times, "Why did you have so many children?" Her inevitable answer is, "Because I am selfish. Each child has enriched my life immeasurably." They thank their Father in Heaven for the love that they have one for another. They had the misfortune of losing their youngest daughter Paula and youngest son Teddy when they were only one and one half years and three years old respectively.

At present their children are doing the following: Richard is in business with his dad. Wenda has just moved to Calgary from Edmonton awaiting an interview for a job in counselling. She has attended the University of Alberta and Brigham Young University, graduating from the latter with a degree in Child Care and Counselling. Laura has also attended these two universities graduating from the University of Alberta in Secondary Education. She has taught in Calgary and is now married to Wayne Walker, a lawyer. They live in Calgary and have one son, Nathan. David graduated from the Lindsay Thurber Composite High School in Red Deer. He served a two year church mission in Missouri, Nebraska, Illinois and Iowa, U.S.A. and sounded like a southerner when he came home. He is in a trucking business in Calgary at present. Diane was married in December of 1976 to Jim Chiles from Stettler. He is in pre-med in the University of Calgary. Diane also graduated from Lindsay Thurber Composite High in Red Deer. She attended Ricks College in Rexburg, Idaho taking Interior Decorating. Sharon also graduated from Lindsay

Thurber. She has been attending Ricks College but at time of writing is home with a broken back and broken leg (seemingly a family trait — breaking bones). Stephen and Philip are attending Lindsay Thurber in grades 12 and 10 respectively and Judy is in Junior High at Sylvan Lake.

Stan and Dordene have always been and are very active in their church and have held many responsible positions and still do at the present time. Stan has also been and is very active in community affairs being a county councilor at present and president of the Co-op in Red Deer, while Dordene has also held some community offices. They feel that the Burnt Lake district has been a great place to raise a family and are grateful for so many good neighbors.

RICK AND WENDY SWAINSON

Richard Mark Swainson, eldest child and son of Stan and Dordene Swainson was born in Red Deer, June 28, 1950. Rickie, as he was soon nicknamed, grew to be a robust young lad full of vim and vigor. The top of his little brown head could be seen many times bobbing above the flock of 1,000 turkeys his father had. Not only did he like turkeys, he had a tender spot for pigs, falling asleep with his dog in the dried out wallows. He used to fill his pockets with "baby piggies", that were in actual fact, baby mice. It's no wonder that mothers need steady nerves and strong stomachs. Rick spent many hours playing with his cousin, Wes, at their nanny's, Mrs. Swain Swainson. Rick could not only play hard but work hard as well. He joined father's crew, as sole member for awhile, and can remember at the age of six, shovelling grain into the hopper of an old fashioned grain grinder, amid his father's "encouragement" to shovel faster.

Rick attended the old one room Burnt Lake school for two and one half years and then went to school in Sylvan Lake until graduation. He was a clever and studious child until he reached grade nine and sports, then, while academics were not his forte, he excelled in athletics. Basketball, volleyball and cross country running, became events he was outstanding in. During the time he was on the basketball and volleyball teams, they reached the provincial playoffs four times. A missed breakfast ended his chances at winning a berth on the Pan Am team for cross country running. During his high school years, Rick was a member of the student's council and was president of the athletic club.

When he was 16 Rick had a very serious accident. He was caught under the box of his father's three ton truck after unloading manure in the field south of the barn. After considerable time, his brother David noticed his absence and subsequently saved Rick from what was fast becoming certain death.

After graduating from high school, Rick went into Red Deer to Lindsay Thurber High School to try and salvage his grades. There he met up with football and again his grades suffered.

After that semester in Red Deer, Rick prepared to go on a two year mission for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. He was assigned to go to the Ontario-Quebec mission and left in June of 1969, returning in June of 1971. He labored in Quebec, in and around Montreal, LaVal and Sherbrooke. During that time he met many people that he grew to love. He had many rich ex-

periences with the French Canadian culture and many other cultures he came in contact with, through people he met in his teaching efforts.

On his return, Rick commenced farming, forming a partnership with his father. During July and August of that same year, Rick met and courted a girl from Edmonton. Her name was Wendy Olive Hamilton and after an exciting whirlwind courtship with many miles travelled between Edmonton and Red Deer, he and she were married November 15, 1971. Wendy was born January 22, 1951 in Edmonton. She was the second child and daughter of Duncan Cameron Hamilton and Marjorie Isabelle Johns Hamilton. After her father's death in 1955, they moved from the coal mining community of Luscar, where her dad was mine manager, to Edmonton. Wendy graduated from high school in 1968 and went to Brigham Young University for one year. After arriving home she worked as a dental assistant until her marriage. Wendy's mother has retired, and now lives in Red Deer, spending many hours with Rick and Wendy and their family.

Rick and Wendy moved Judge Kirby's home from Michener Hill in Red Deer onto a foundation 200 yards south-west of Rick's parents. Rick was able to acquire land to rent and with his interest in his father's dairy herd, was committed to farming. The spring of 1973 saw Rick invest in a quarter section of land, NW 15-38-1-5, that belonged to his uncle Bryan Swainson. In July of 1974 he and his father dispersed their dairy herd and invested in Simmental cattle; buying at the peak of the exotic cattle "craze" proved to be a "dry hole."

Rick and Wendy have four children. **Rebecca Jocelyn**, the first daughter born in 1972, has brought many moments of laughter and joy. She used to have a case of "wanderlust" and we found her many times caught in the barb wire fences varying distances from the house. During one winter she, in her yellow snowsuit, followed our St. Bernard, Brandy, across the road into Pete Ilcisin's field. Anxious moments for all. **Rachel Madelaine**, the second daughter, born in 1974, has been a special child from birth. She developed epilepsy at three months which finally culminated in a brain operation to remove a cancerous tumor, five days after her first birthday. After cobalt treatments she was able to come home from Edmonton and has been on the go ever since. She loves the outdoors and people, and we feel blessed to have her with us. The third daughter, who was thought to be a boy, was born in 1975 and named **Amy Elaine**. Amy is a dear, for she is so quick minded and has a winning smile and twinkle in her eyes. She will sympathetically pat a crying sister and join in if the cause is worthwhile. She loves to be gathered up by her "gran", but can also bring the house down with a cacophony of crying. The latest addition was a boy named **Mark Hamilton** born in 1976. Besides being a longed for change from the girls, Mark is a delightful baby. Smiling, laughing and giggling, from around the two middle fingers that seem to find their way into his mouth, are his pastimes at present. He bears a remarkable resemblance to his father which is not too surprising as the girls seem to as well. All the children dearly love their father as does his wife, and are glad that they have the opportunity, through him, to be members of the Burnt Lake community.

THE BRYAN SWAINSON FAMILY

Bryan, son of Swain and Struna Swainson, was born June 29, 1928. He took his grades one to nine inclusive at the Burnt Lake Public School. He was active in ball and hockey throughout these years, playing hockey with the Burnt Lake Clippers both during his later grades and after completing school. Bryan took grades ten and eleven at the Red Deer High School and grade twelve at the Red Deer Composite High School.

After finishing high school he farmed with his father and brother Stanley. In the fall of 1943 Bryan had the misfortune of getting run over by a tractor which resulted in a compound fracture of the pelvis as well as other scrapes and bruises. This resulted in a three month stay in the Red Deer Municipal Hospital.

In the fall of 1948, Bryan purchased the Jens Paulsen farm, NE 15-38-1-5, which had about 65 acres broken, and had another 55 acres broken by 1951. The bush was very heavy with lots of balm trees, measuring 24 to 28 inches in diameter and 70 feet tall. During this time, Bryan finished his education by taking Diesel Engineering by correspondence and the practical in Edmonton, where he received his Diesel Engineering Diploma.

Bryan married Mavis Marshall, a registered nurse, and daughter of Joe and Laura Marshall of Eckville on July 25, 1953. They lived on the farm until the fall of 1957, where they had daughters **Teresa** and **Christine** and son **Michael** who died of acute inflammation of the lungs, when he was only one week old.

In the spring of 1957, Bryan took a job as a heavy equipment salesman with Union Tractor who had the caterpillar tractor franchise at that time. The family moved into Red Deer in November of 1957, and have resided there since. In the spring of 1958 Street Robbins Morrow Limited were awarded the caterpillar franchise and at this time Bryan accepted the job of sales engineer and territory manager for all Caterpillar and Allied lines for all of central Alberta, from border to border. Son **Peter** and daughter **Sherry** were born to Mavis and Bryan in 1958 and 1962 respectively. Street Robbins Morrow Ltd. merged with R. Angus Alberta Ltd. in the spring of 1968, and Bryan took over as Branch and Sales manager of the Red Deer branch operation.

The family had many good years, and in 1971 they purchased Millar Motors. On June 1, 1971 they started the new dealership under the name of Southside Plymouth Chrysler Ltd., which has flourished and kept everyone busy, providing a complete automotive and recreational service.

Tragedy struck the family on March 11, 1975 when Mavis was stricken with lobar pneumonia with which she was taken from us two days later. Since then Bryan married Winnifred Hilsenteger, B.Sc. in Nursing. Winnifred is the daughter of Daniel and Winnifred Sheridan of Lacombe, Alberta. She is a Public Nurse with the Red Deer Health Unit. This union brought seven more children into the family, which are; **James, Raymond, Margaret, Daniel, Kenneth, Barbara** and **Martin**. The whole family is healthy and happy and make quite a gang when everyone comes home.

Bryan has been active in community affairs and has served the following organizations: Vestryman and Warden for St. Luke's Anglican Church; Director, Equipment Chairman and president for The United Way

of Red Deer and district; Director of the Red Deer Junior Packers Football team; Director and president of the Red Deer Rustler Junior hockey team; Director of the Red Deer Summer Games; Director of the Chamber of Commerce and Director and First vice president of the Red Deer Downtown Kiwanis club.

JACK SWAINSON

Jack Swainson, the youngest son of Swain and Struna Swainson, was born in Red Deer on December 23, 1943. Nine older brothers and sisters had disadvantages when it came to someone to play with, but Jack's problem was solved in the late '40's when the Ballantynes moved into the district, only a mile away. That muddy mile soon became well travelled as Jack and Bill Ballantyne became inseparable buddies. Their accomplishments ranged from champion crow and magpie leg collectors, to expert rafters, to a fort in the bush behind Pop's house, complete with elevating stove, woodshed and locking door.

Jack's appreciation and love for guns was initiated by big sister Pearl, an Annie Oakley in disguise. After mastering the art of sending a penny whizzing off a post at 30 yards, the gophers in the pasture had a nervous twitch, whenever the deadly duo approached with the trusty old Cooney 22.

Electricity was another of Jack's early interests and his mother had one of the few "dumb waiters" around complete with electric lights in the early '50's.

Mechanics came naturally for Jack with older brothers around who always needed a little arm or hand to get into tight places. One day, brother Bryan found five year old Jack under the Farmall M, wrench in hand, with only one bolt left holding the clutch cover in place. After that, big brothers took care not to mention mechanical work that had to be done when young Jack was around.

Since help was always short on the farm, Jack had an opportunity to learn to drive at an early age. This often left his brother's tempers a bit frayed, especially the day he came home with a punctured rear tractor tire.

Bales, both round and square, were the plague of the '50's, but somehow through early mornings and late nights during spring work, haying and harvest, Jack managed to finish grade eight at Burnt Lake school and start a new experience, grade nine and high school in Red Deer. The two hours spent on the bus each day provided an opportunity for attempts at studying, wrist-twisting, sleeping and usually a lot of merri-making.

School in Red Deer seemed to slip by rather quickly, interspersed with new friends, new ideas and a few difficult teachers. Then in Grade XII, Jackie Foster came on the scene and set the farm boy's heart apounding. Somehow they made it through that last year of high school and even managed to live with the 10 o'clock curfew her Mom and Dad, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Foster, imposed on them.

Edmonton was the next stop for Jack and Jackie where agriculture and nursing became the chosen fields. The old coral and green '58 Dodge made frequent trips between St. Stephen's College residence and the Royal Alex Nurses' residence during those two hectic years in Edmonton. Jack found that he would rather be a farmer "outstanding in his field" than at the U. of A., so he returned to the farm full time in 1964. Alberta Government

Telephones were delighted and the party-line kept well entertained during the last year Jackie was in Edmonton. Finally in 1965 the young nurse returned to Red Deer to begin working at the Red Deer General Hospital.

It was 30 below on November 27, 1965 when the trucker brought the septic tank to be installed immediately for the new little house on the Swainson farmstead, but anything can be overcome on your wedding day and that evening the newlyweds were off on their honeymoon. After getting settled on the farm (a city girl isn't used to these things), Jackie returned to work on the Maternity Ward, where she met more of her neighbors. Finally, getting tired of paying the grocery bill, Jackie decided to put her work to practice and **Carolyn Joy** arrived in January of 1968. **Michael John** didn't wait too long and arrived to keep the household hopping in July of 1969. They both keep mother and dad busy chauffeuring them to and from activities they are involved in.

The next few years were busy ones for the Swainson household, raising the family, some cattle and cheap grain. Jack was quite involved with Unifarm, United Farmers of Alberta Co-Op, Burnt Lake Gas Co-Op and the Board of Gaetz Church. The farming operation also grew from Stan and Jack to Stan, Jack, Rick and Wes, all farming together.

Jackie was not just busy being a mother, but also finding time for a few days nursing now and then, being a Sorority Sister and even taking an A.I. course so she could breed a few cows (Marchigiana, naturally). At present the Swainson family find itself busy with the many requirements of the now mixed rural and urban life. Carolyn is busy in grade IV at Sylvan Lake, the Brownie Pack and figure skating (along with looking after her horse, Freckles). Michael is finding grade two more fun than grade one, and playing hockey is even better.

Being a farm wife for 11 years has reaffirmed Jackie's beliefs that farming may not be the easiest way of life, but she'd never trade it as a place to live and raise a family. She still finds time to keep her nursing skills current and displays her culinary expertise with great delight. Jack keeps busy with farm affairs, repairs and numerous organizations. One of these days he hopes to revalidate his pilot's licence and spend a little more time at home.

All in all the Swainsons enjoy life along the Burnt Lake Trail very much and hope they have added to, and can continue to, contribute to the community in which they live.

THE ELLIS SVEINSON FAMILY — written by ENA SVEINSON

Ellis Sveinson established his home on NE 36-37-1-5. He had attended the Olds Agricultural School and in 1925 married Ena Sigurdson of the Pine Hill district. The family consists of three children, Jean born in June, 1928, Tommy in May, 1930 and Dennis in March, 1932.

We started out bravely enough with a nice new home built on a picturesque spot far back on the quarter, a fact we were often to regret on account of bad roads. So often we had to get a team of horses to pull us in from the Meridian, our east boundary, and the children had a long way to go to school.



Ellis Sveinson Family — about 1938. Ellis, Ena, Jean, Dennis and Tom.

We had four good years before the depression set in in 1929. The next ten years were not so good but somehow we struggled through and felt we were lucky to be living on a farm. In 1939 conditions started to pick up and we started to make a come-back but by that time Ellis' health had failed and it was hard to hire good help.

On September 10th, 1945 Ellis had a severe stroke caused by a cerebral hemorrhage and passed away a few hours later without regaining consciousness. We had already sold the farm to Captain Batchelor and were going to move as soon as the crop was harvested. In October I had a sale and bought a house in Red Deer. Jean had already had a year at High School and the boys were in grades nine and eight. I lived in the house on 56th Street for five years then bought a house on 45th Avenue near the Composite School and lived there for nineteen years when I sold and moved into the Plaza Apartments.

Jean married David Ostrasser. They live in Calgary and have two boys and a girl. **Tom** married Helen Feniak and they have two girls and one boy. They live in Carstairs where Tom is manager of the Bank of Montreal. **Dennis** married Esther Marshall and their family consists of four boys and three girls. They live in Red Deer. Dennis is a pipe-fitter and works at various gas plants.

PAUL AND VIOLET SVEINSON

Paul was the third son of Mr. and Mrs. Johan Sveinson and came from Mountain, North Dakota, with his parents and six brothers and sisters in the fall of 1900. Mrs. Sveinson's father, Jason Thordurson also came with them and homesteaded the SW 36-37-1-5, while Mr. Sveinson homesteaded the NW 36-37-1-5 and bought the C.P.R. quarter, SW 1-38-1-5.

The grandfather lived with the family for several years. Like all grandfathers, he was a pet of the children and a handyman around the farm, his special job was tending the flock of sheep his son-in-law had. He died at the age of 76 and is buried in the Tindastoll cemetery, near Markerville.

Paul attended school at Burnt Lake driving almost three miles to school and at times walking.

In 1923 Paul became interested in Violet Einarson, a neighbor girl who had come in 1915 with her mother, two sisters and one brother from Iceland (see S. Grimson story). On March 25, 1925 they were married and lived at first with his mother. His father had died in 1923. During that summer Paul got his brother-in-law, John Strong, to build a house and barn. He hauled all the gravel required from the river near Penhold and the lumber from Red Deer with horses. This proved to be a difficult task as the roads were poor and the trip long. One evening, on the return trip, a blinding storm struck suddenly and Paul could not see the approach to the bridge except when the flashes of lightning lit up the sky. The team bolted and Paul was certain they would not find the way across the bridge and was sure they would land in the water but the horses' instinct took them safely across. By fall the house was completed and Paul and Violet moved into their new home, built on his grandfather's homestead.

Paul was a very capable farmer and careful in all his work. A beautiful stand of spruce trees along his lane stand as a tribute to his work. He and his brother Ellis, bought the NE 35-37-1-5 and had the land for grain and pasture. He had a nice herd of cattle, some hogs, chickens and milked a few cows. Violet was a willing helper and one day when they were loading hogs, had an experience which is still vividly remembered. It had been raining for several days so the yard in the pig pens were really wet. Paul's brother, Leo had come over to help and Violet was there too. One pig, in particular, was very uncooperative. Just as Violet had him cornered, he scooted through her legs and got entangled in her dress (we did not wear slacks in those days). He ran around the pig pen with poor Violet on his back. She was terror stricken but the men were having a good laugh. Finally she slid off the pig's back and into the mud. Violet was a good housekeeper and an excellent cook. She won many prizes for her baking at the Women's Institute competitions and also at the Red Deer fair. She was a faithful Women's Institute member and did Red Cross sewing through the war years.

The years rolled by and the children finished their schooling at home and then attended the high school in Red Deer. **Verna**, the eldest girl married Michael Joseph Kobewka. He worked for Union Tractor Co. and in the oil fields for many years and is now a general contractor. They have three sons and a daughter. The boys are all married. Kenneth, the oldest son is employed by an engineering company, apprenticing for his degree. Leonard is a policeman and is stationed in Edmonton. Sidney has a degree in psychology and is employed at the Glen Rose school in Edmonton, a home for delinquents. Joyce is attending the University of Alberta, taking computer science. **Johan** (Joe), Paul and Violet's eldest son has worked in the oil fields at Anchorage and Fairbanks, Alaska and in Texas and other states. He is married to Patricia Patrick of Iowa and they have two sons, Richard



Violet and Paul Sveinson — 1975. 50th Wedding Anniversary.

Wade and Jason. Joe now is manager of the Innisfail Billiard Hall. **Lloyd** has been a guard at the penitentiary at Drumheller for some years and is now a councillor at the Bowden Institute. He is married to Hazel Albert of Sylvan Lake and they have six children. The eldest boy is an electrician in Drumheller, two daughters are attending college in Idaho and they have one daughter married and living in Medicine Hat. The rest are attending school at home in Innisfail. **Gladys**, the youngest girl, married Larry Rantz, a computer technician. They have lived in Regina, Calgary, and now live in Vancouver, where he is a building contractor. They have three girls and a boy, aged from 11 to three years.

Paul sold his farm, all except 40 acres, a few years ago. He and Violet live at the Senior Citizens Home in Sylvan Lake but hope to return to the farm in the spring (1977) if Violet's health improves.

STEVEN SZABO

In 1973 Steven Szabo, his wife Bonny and children **Michelle** and **Darin** bought the 20 acres on NE 16-38-1-5 from Robert Keiver. They came from Calgary and moved back very shortly, commuting back and forth for two years. They now are renting the acreage to **MR. AND MRS. STEIGEL** and their four children.

THE JAMES TEASDALE FAMILY

In 1911 James Teasdale bought the NE 25-37-1-5 from Andrew Telning and moved there with his wife and three children. His brother Richard, lived with them for some time.

James had been a civil engineer in India and his wife had always enjoyed the material comforts of life with several servants to do all the household tasks. The adjustment to pioneer life is beyond comprehension. Mrs. Teasdale was an accomplished pianist and Mr. Teasdale was a good singer and actor. Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Stewart who had bought and settled on the SE 2-38-1-5 were also very talented and the two families became friends and they, along with Mr. and Mrs. Frank Dallaire, delighted the district with many concerts during World War I when they were raising money for the Red Cross, the Patriotic Society, etc. Often they composed the songs, to suit the occasion.

James Teasdale sold the farm in 1918 and moved to Penhold where he worked at a milk station. They moved to Drumheller the following year where he was mine supervisor, and then to Edmonton.

THE ED AND LENA TEIERLE FAMILY

Ed and Lena Teierle farmed at Beisker, Alberta for many years before coming to Burnt Lake purchasing the NW 14-38-1-5 in November, 1942. This was formerly the Sandy Smith farm. It was a very cold and stormy eve when we arrived there with only an air tight heater. We almost froze to death.

June, Pat and Ray started school shortly after we arrived here, Dale and Janice were too young but started two years later. We farmed for two years and in 1950 sold 144 acres to Mr. Gronnestad and kept 16 acres and the buildings. Ed worked two years for Mr. Bloom in Sylvan Lake then he got a job at Poole Construction in September, 1955. We sold out, moved to Red Deer, and bought a new house. In 1969 we sold the house to our son Ray and bought a mobile home and moved to Blackfalds. Ed has worked at Travelaire Company, Red Deer, for ten years.

June married Allan Sailor. They live in Didsbury, Alberta and have two children, Cherylle and Darrell. **LeRoy** and family live in Red Deer with their two children Danny and Brian. **Pat**, not married, works at Fort McMurray in the north. **Dale** passed away in 1973 leaving two children, Treena and Susie. **Janice** married Gordon Byrt and lives in Nevis, Alberta with their two children Kelly and Gordon, Jr. **Ray** and family are in Red Deer. Their three children are Rhonda, Shon and Sheldon.

We found the people of Burnt Lake very wonderful and when we needed help they were always there.



Teierle Family — 1974. Back — Ed, Leroy, Ray. Front — Janice, Lena, June, Pat.

THE ANDREW TELNING FAMILY

Andrew Telning was born in Fogelvik, Sweden on March 11, 1852. He emigrated to the United States in 1873. He made his home in Minnesota and Wisconsin for the next 30 years. During this time he married Anna Christina Sveinson. There were four children, Lazarus (**Larry**), **Maria**, **Martha** and **David**.

Andrew came with his wife and family to Alberta in 1902 and bought a C.P.R. quarter, NE 25-37-1-5. He specialized in raising cattle and sheep and was an active member of the Swedish Union Church. His father John Telning, joined the family here in 1903 and lived with them until they sold the farm in 1911 so we had three generations of Telnings living in the Burnt Lake district at one time.

When Andrew Telning sold the farm in 1911 he and his son David, homesteaded on land near Rocky Mountain House. In 1917 Andrew and his wife moved to Victoria, British Columbia and later to Essondale, British Columbia. He died at the age of 86 in Nanaimo, British Columbia in 1938. His wife predeceased him in 1930.

Larry Telning homesteaded in the Evarts district but lived in Red Deer until he died in 1972 at the age of 86. There were three daughters, one died about 12 years of age. Shirley, now Mrs. McPherson, lives in Vancouver, and Toupia married Robert Goodacre and lives in Red Deer. There are five grandchildren. Larry's sister, Maria, married Edward Hogg, one time Mayor of Red Deer and the second sister, Martha, married Fred Turnbull, long time editor of the Red Deer Advocate and now Honorary Chairman of the Board. Mr. Turnbull, now 90 years of age, still lives in Red Deer. Incidentally, the two Telning sisters were famed for their beauty and charm.

BERT TIVIOTDALE — (as told by Mrs. Andrew Halvorson)

Bert Tiviotdale and his wife, Clara Jgoman, came from Saskatchewan in 1920 with the intention of making a home for themselves on the SW 15-38-1-5. Bert was an Englishman, having served with the British army in World War I. Clara, from Saskatchewan, was a friend of Mrs. Halvorson.

They stayed with Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Halvorson while Bert worked at putting up a log and rail shelter. That April, a particularly wet and unsettled spring, it continually rained, drizzled, and snowed day after day. Andrew, with his wry sense of humor, tried to encourage Bert by telling him that every fresh snowfall helped melt the old snow.

Bert was very inexperienced, and after struggling with logs through snow, slush, rain and cold winds, he surveyed his work — a structure that looked more like a corral than a house — and realized the utter futility of his efforts. He was a trained machinist, so he packed up and took his wife and son to Edmonton where his talents could be put to far better use in providing a comfortable living for his family.

RAY THACKER FAMILY

In 1974 Ray and Grace Thacker bought the seven acre yardsite which had been subdivided from the SW 16-38-1-5, formerly owned by Martin Durajcik. Ray, Grace and family moved here from Fort Chipewyan. The children were **Karen, Wade, Penny, Raymond, Ernest and Kirk**. They moved back to Fort Chipewyan in 1975 and the acreage was sold to **BEN AND IDA WHITMORE**.

ERNEST AND ELIZABETH TRACHSEL, SR.

Ernest and Elizabeth were raised on farms in Switzerland. As a young couple they moved to the city. There they led a happy middleclass life until 1936. There was an new threat on the horizon, Hitler. Concerned for their future, they immigrated to Canada with their two sons, **Ernest and Kurt** in August, 1936.

Ernest bought the NW 10-38-1-5 from a Finn by the name of Rintenen. There was only a poor one room shack on this quarter, therefore, the entire family lived on the NE 10-38-1-5 which Ernest and Kurt had bought, the former Dallaire farm. Mr. Trachsel never farmed his land, but rented it out to his sons.

Their Golden wedding anniversary was in 1956 and the occasion was the first of its kind in Burnt Lake. While living here they led a quiet, peaceful life.

Ernest died in February, 1962 and Elizabeth followed in December of 1965. They are both buried in the Red Deer Cemetery.

ERNEST AND DORA TRACHSEL

Ernest, the eldest son of Ernest and Elizabeth was raised in Switzerland. He had a degree in commerce and was a practicing accountant. In 1936 he came to Canada with his parents and brother Kurt. They settled in the Burnt Lake district in August, 1936 and together with Kurt purchased the NE 10-38-1-5.

Even though they were city-raised, they settled down readily to farm life and soon had a prosperous dairy herd which they maintained until the later 1960's.

Unknown to any of his neighbors, Ernest built his own plane, and after taking flying lessons at Penhold, he spent many happy hours flying. Unfortunately, one evening, he had trouble and crashed. The plane was completely damaged and Ernest spent some time in the hospital. This ended his flying days, and it can be remembered that he remarked "I'd better stick to checkers".

Ernest had met his future wife Dora in Switzerland, and in 1965 she came to Canada and they were married shortly after. In 1968 they made a trip back to Switzerland for a few month's visit.

Ernest remembers the early years of his life here as hard but happy times.

In 1972 they sold the farm to Elmer Johnson and returned to Switzerland. They came back to Canada for a visit in 1975 and spent the winter in British Columbia and returned again to Switzerland in the spring of 1976.

KURT AND EDITH TRACHSEL

Kurt and Edith were both educated in Switzerland, where they completed high school and obtained college degrees in commerce. Besides their native Swiss, they speak French, German and English. Kurt also attended the Conservatory of Music in Berne and was active in Switzerland as a professional musician.

Kurt and Edith were married in Berne, Switzerland in 1936 and one week later sailed for Canada, arriving in Red Deer on August 5, 1936. That fall, in partnership with his brother, they bought the NE 10-38-1-5, the former Frank Dallaire quarter in Burnt Lake, where they lived until the spring of 1945. At that time, Kurt and Ernest broke up their partnership and they moved to a rented farm in the Joffre district. After two years, they returned to the Sylvan Lake area, renting the Elmer McKee farm in Kuusamo. In the fall of 1949 they

purchased the well known Tamarac Stock Farms in the Burbank area (east of Blackfalds). This was a well equipped dairy farm where consequently they carried on a large dairy operation for many years. They still live on this place today, even though they are no longer engaged in any active farming.

Kurt and Edith have two children: **Derek** was born in 1944 in Burnt Lake and **Luxie** was born in 1948 in Kuusamo. Both attended high school in Lacombe and graduated from the University of Alberta. Derek holds a B.Sc. and Master's degree in chemistry. He is also a fully licensed commerical pilot. Luxie, after receiving her B.Sc. entered medical school in Edmonton and is now a fully licensed and practicing M.D. Derek married Valerie Heinz of Edmonton in 1967.

In 1968 Edith entered a four year Fine Arts course at the Alberta College of Arts in Calgary as a full time student. After that, she taught commercial art for three consecutive years at the Lindsay Thurber high school in Red Deer. Kurt was always active in music. In 1951 he joined the newly formed Edmonton Symphony as a cellist and became deeply involved in that city's musical life. He remained with this orchestra for 16 years, the last nine as principal cellist. After 1958 he also became a member of the Calgary Philharmonic. In 1968, after resigning from his duties in Edmonton, Kurt accepted the position of orchestra manager in Calgary. In 1972 the Philharmonic Society underwent changes in its organization and he became the first General Manager, a position he is holding today.

CECIL TRASK

Cecil Trask and his wife and two boys lived in the Burnt Lake district for about a year in 1963, renting the building site on SE 22-38-1-5 from Mrs. E. Gronnestad. The boys, **Ernest** and **Clarence**, went to school at Sylvan Lake. An older son, **Joe**, was in the Navy.

While living in this district, Cecil Trask worked for Len Rowen Construction Co. of Sylvan Lake as a caterpillar operator. When the family left the area, they moved to Red Deer and Cecil worked for Harper's Metals. Mr. Trask passed away in 1973, and Mrs. Trask is living in Vancouver, British Columbia.

IRENE (HAYWARD) VEILLEUX — SE 25-37-1-5

I was born in Hazelmere, British Columbia on December 23, 1908. In 1914 my mother and father (Mr. and Mrs. R. E. Hayward) moved their family twelve miles north of Leslieville, Alberta. There we started school, first in a settler's home, then the Washington Heights school was built, and we were some of the first children to enter. My parents moved to Bentley in 1916, and I went to school there until 1921. Later the family moved to Leedale, and that is where I finished public school.

I worked out for awhile and was married on February 21, 1927. I moved to Potter Creek school district and stayed there and worked in that district until 1943.

I had five children. The oldest was born in Bentley, but the rest were born on the homestead. The oldest girl, **Blanche**, married and makes her home in California. The next girl, **Beniece**, married and lives in Camrose. The first boy to come along was **Bruce**. He is married and lives west of High River. The next boy, **Grant** is married and resides at Sandy Cove Beach, Pine Lake. The

youngest girl, **Lois**, married and makes her home in Bashaw.

We all went through the depression years, and we did whatever there was to do. I always had a very good garden, sometimes at first it was rather small, but it grew bigger with the family. The lumber camps took some of the extra vegetables. The price was so low, and some vegetables were exchanged for lumber. We all worked hard for very little returns. The horses were often over-worked and under fed too. I just look back and think; "What faithful beasts they were!"

I came to Red Deer in 1943, got myself a house and worked there until 1957. In those years, I spent fifteen winters cooking in logging camps west of Rocky Mountain House. My longest place of cooking was at Edwards and Gillis Camp. I put in nine winters with them. I enjoyed cooking, so liked it very much. Other camps include, Cliff and Bill Brierly, Frank Barnes and L. Barnes.

When I came to Red Deer to find work, I found it easy to get a job. The first place was at the Blue Derby run by Gordon Sorenson, and I stayed there until it changed hands.

I spent my holidays in the Ridgewood district and actually I'm a newcomer. I haven't been one to travel, so have spent my life in a small triangle of Rimbey, Red Deer and Rocky Mountain House. I have met a lot of hard working folks and enjoyed it all. I now live in my own home in the Burnt Lake district.

JOE AND DOREEN VISSCHER

Joe and Doreen Visscher moved to the NE 22-32-1-5 in the spring of 1964, having purchased the property from Keith Gideon. They spent the summer remodeling the house.

One of the first experiences which still comes to mind happened soon after they arrived. Doreen was coming from Sylvan Lake in her car, and, on turning the corner for home, happened upon a neighbor coming with what seemed to her a huge, long machine, "teeth on both ends". It seemed to take the whole road and more. She took a short cut across the corner, through the ditch and up again, and carried on her way. The neighbor still remarks on the horrified look on her face. All went well, but later that evening when John Lindman came by, he asked why all the grass on the bumper of the car. What was this machine? A tractor trailing the stackmover with a hay sweep on front. She kept a close lookout after that!

Joe was born in Holland and came to Canada in 1948. Doreen (Mashmeyer) was born at Bruderheim, Alberta. They were married there in the fall of 1955. They spent two and a half years in the Northwest Territories, leaving in the spring of 1956 for Norman Wells, fifty miles from the Arctic Circle. The quietness and slow pace of the area was apparent. There were no traffic snarls, telephones, radio reception or television. They flew occasionally to the Virgin Lakes where fishing for Arctic grayling was wonderful.

From the North they came to Red Deer where they lived for ten years before coming to the farm in Burnt Lake. They left the district in 1964 and lived in Red Deer for a short time and since 1967 have been living in the Brookfield district in the Joffre area where they are farming. Joe is also employed by Imperial Oil Company, Production Department.

They have three children, **Bill** (1957), **Sandra** (1961) and **Mark** (1970).

In 1968 they took a trip back to Holland, and the children met their grandparents there. While there they celebrated Joe's grandmother's 100th birthday.

Their hobbies are curling, the children belong to 4-H and all the family love skiing.

JOHN WESSLEN AND FAMILY — by Edward Wesslen with the help of Axel Johanson

Mr. and Mrs. John Wesslen and family of two girls and four boys left Osterestan, Sweden and came to Canada in the early 1890's. Their oldest child **Maria** was born in 1876. She married and disappeared in 1904 never to be heard of again. **Gustaf** was born in 1877, married and lived in Montana for awhile. His son **Bill**, lives at Kamloops, British Columbia. **Carl** was born in 1879 and remained a bachelor. **Johan Oskar** was born in 1880 and **Hulda** in 1884. **Wilhelm** (Bill) was born in 1886. He worked in the district for awhile, then went to Seattle, U.S.A.

Wesslen homesteaded the SW 4-38-28-4 in the Shady Nook district before 1900. The Shady Nook School was on the southeast corner of the homestead. In 1904, they sold the homestead and bought the Pearson farm, NW 6-38-28-4. In 1909 Mr. and Mrs. Wesslen sold this farm to Eric Johanson and moved to Van Anda Island, British Columbia.

OSKAR WESSLEN

In 1903 Oskar homesteaded the present Nick Sauter farm, NW 16-38-1-5. In 1906 Eric Johanson and Oskar

Wesslen went by train to the Bar U Ranch in High River to buy horses. They bought saddles, rode and drove 45 head of horses back to Burnt Lake, stopping at Calgary a few days. They broke these horses and sold them, which required great hardiness and stamina on their part. Their favorite drink was creek water, soda, vinegar and sugar.

Lars Petterson and Oskar helped Eric Johanson break oxen. Oskar bought "lots" in the townsite of Stockholm and built a house and blacksmith shop. He lived there for awhile.

In the spring of 1913 he married Annie Hedemark. They lived in Sylvan Lake where he had a dray business. Later he operated the Atlas Lumber Company. They had two children, **Mabel** born April, 1914 and **Edward** born 1916. Oskar and his daughter died in 1929. Oskar was an ardent hunter and fisherman, so they lived on wild game in season.

Later Annie married Vic Bjergaard. She is in the Red Deer Nursing Home at the age of 91 years (1976) and Vic is in the Eckville Hospital. Oskar and Annie's son Edward lives west of Blackfalds and married Doris Hueppelsheuser in 1940. They have two children, **Mrs. Shirley Morison**, who lives west of Airdrie with her three children; **Larry**, who is also married and has two children. He works for the Fire Department in Calgary.

Sam Gehrke told the story of his father and John Wesslen owning one horse each. They would hitch the horses together and drive to town. After socializing in town they would begin arguing and unhitch the horses so neither one had transportation home. Later they would settle their argument, be on good terms, once again hitch the horses together and go home!

THE JOHN WILHELM FAMILY

In 1927, at the age of sixteen, John Wilhelm left his home country, Hungary, along with his mother and family. They joined their father in Vermilion, Alberta, and farmed there until 1944.

In 1944 John bought a five acre farm in North Red Deer, now developed into the Highland Green subdivision. Later he sold this land and bought from Leonard Hacker Sec. 5-38-1-5.

The Christmas of 1945, John went to Penticton, British Columbia to visit his sister Mary. Here he first met Annie Sakal, the youngest child of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Sakal. They had emigrated from Hungary to Lestock, Saskatchewan in 1905 and farmed there until 1943 when they moved to Osoyoos, British Columbia.

John and Annie were married on January 21, 1946 on Annie's birthday. Later that month they left for their home in the Burnt Lake district. They lived in a two storey, five bedroom house, which was built in the early 1900's and is still standing today (1976).

John and Annie raised a family of four; Larry, Shirley, Evelyn and Karen. The three oldest children attended the Burnt Lake School of which they have many fond and amusing memories. Larry recalls with humor, one incident when Evelyn was alone with two young boys, all in grade one, who naturally being boys, picked on her constantly. One day as they were leaving the school house, they were very surprised and amused to see two young boys sitting very unhappily in a huge puddle of water—with a-huffing and a-puffing little Evelyn glaring



Mr. and Mrs. Oskar Wesslen, Mabel and Edward — 1920.

down at them. Needless to say, Evelyn was never picked on again.

In 1959 the County started busing the children to Sylvan Lake. Later, **Larry**, **Shirley** and **Evelyn** finished high school in Red Deer. **Karen**, the youngest, attended school in Sylvan Lake.

All of the children were very active in the 4-H club.

Another incident that the whole family will never forget happened when the family arrived home from town one day. Soon they realized that something had happened to their three geese. At first they thought that the coyotes had got them, but there was no sign of feathers anywhere. They searched everywhere, but finally had to give up their hunt. Approximately six weeks later when Annie had gone to the spring to collect water, she heard a goose faintly calling. Shaking her head she thought she must be hearing things. Again she heard the goose calling. She finally realized it was coming from the cattle trough. The water had run down one end of the trough and had frozen the three geese under. They had no way of escaping, but they had survived on water bugs and weeds. She hurried back to the house to tell everyone, and soon the whole family was chipping away the ice that had trapped the birds. The birds were blinded temporarily by being in the dark so long but were soon running around as good as ever.

Another amusing incident that the four of them remember is told by Joyce. One spring we were having an awful time during calving time. All of us took turns staying up with the cows to make sure nothing happened to the calves. We had lost a few calves and were very happy to see any calf live. One day as things were slowing down, we were invited to Jean and Irene Wold's for coffee. It was April the first, and Anita Halvorson was to pick us up and all go together. Dressed up in our Sunday best, sling back shoes and all, we proceeded to get into the car, being so careful not to get mud on our shoes. We had a wonderful visit and arrived home a couple of hours later to find Dad and Larry full of excitement. They told us that while we were gone, they had delivered beautiful twin calves. Well, fancy shoes or no fancy shoes, we ran through the mud as fast as we could, down to where the cows were. We looked under every cow, as if we were checking hens for eggs. Then we ran to the barn and looked in every corner, but to no avail. We could not find our precious twin calves. Alarmed, we ran back to the men who just stood there laughing. We looked at each other, with mud up to our knees, and said at the same time, "April Fools"!

Eventually there were weddings popping up one after another. Larry married Joyce Waisman, from Red Deer in June, 1969; Evelyn married James Dunham in June, 1971, and moved to Ponoka where they are both employed at the Ponoka Mental Institution. Shirley married Murray Thompson in September, 1971 and are now residing in Penticton, British Columbia. They have three children. Karen married Bruce Ramsay in June, 1972 and are living in the Markerville district. They have two daughters.

Larry, Joyce and their three children, Raylene, Allan John and Larry James Jr., lived on the family farm, where they farmed with John and Annie until April, 1976 when the farm was sold to Bill Edgar and Son.

John and Annie have moved to Summerland, British Columbia, and Joyce and Larry have bought a farm in the Manning district near Peace River, Alberta.

GEORGE AND MARJ. WILLIAMS

George and Marjorie (Marj.) bought the property, NE 22-38-1-5, from Raymond and Gordon Gronnestad in 1957, and owned it about it about four years. They rented out the farm land. They didn't make a permanent home here but enjoyed the week-ends and other occasions. This was the original A. G. Lindholm homestead and the old buildings, at the time were still there. George remembers seeing old Swedish newspapers in the old house dating back to 1892. While looking for rocks for cement work, arrowheads and Indian graves were found. The graves were distinctly noticeable, facing east.

While cleaning up the yard area, a fire caught in the ground or manure pile, and smoldered during the hot and dry season. It took the old barn first and spread to the other buildings, unnoticed, and they were also burnt. A small house was moved in, a new well was drilled and a number of cattle and horses were kept, which the boys enjoyed.

The Williams lived in Red Deer. George was, and still is, employed by the C.P.R. as a conductor, and at that time travelled the Red Deer to Rocky Mountain House route.

George was born in England in 1921. His parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Williams, lived in Liverpool. His family are all in England. George came to Canada in 1941, with the Air Force. He was a ground airframe fitter and was stationed at Penhold 36SFTS for two years.

In 1943 George and Marj. Gano were married in Calgary, and George was transferred back to England that year. The family lived there and returned to Canada in 1946 after the war. Their son Danny was two years old.

Marj. was born in Oregon, U.S.A. and came to Canada with her parents when two years old. The family settled in Vermilion and from there moved to Wainwright where Marj. grew up and received her schooling. Her father, John Gano, was a professional photographer at Wainwright. Her family are distantly related to the late Howard Hughes, (the millionaire). They have a book of family records dating back to 1610.

George is looking forward to his retirement in a few more years. He is presently working on the C.P.R. line running from Red Deer to Edmonton, and Red Deer to Hardisty, as conductor. He also instructs new staff men, and for ten years has been a representative of the railroad for U.T.U.R. (United Transport Union). George is also a race horse fan.

Danny, their eldest son, and his wife live at Grovedale, Alberta, on a farm raising thoroughbred horses for racing. They have three boys. **Gary**, their younger son, lives in Vancouver, British Columbia, and is employed at auto body work.

SIGURD WOLD

To leave the land of one's birth, to many people has meant more than they ever thought it would. Many never saw that land or even relatives again. Such was the case of the Wold family.

Nicholas Wold came to the U.S.A. in the early 1890's but returned home to Norway to marry his sweetheart. Having seen hope of a better future in America, he per-

sued his parents and his brother Sigurd to come to the new land.

In 1894, Nicholas' father, Ole Wold, gave up his job at a nail factory and Sigurd, age 15, quit his job in the Spinnery, where thread was wound onto spools. They packed their belongings, and set sail for the U.S.A. Hopes and fears likely filled their hearts as they left the shores of beautiful Norway to go to a land so foreign to them.

Sailing in those days was no pleasure — boats without stabilizers, made for a dreadful trip. Sigurd proved to be a poor sailor; instead of enjoying the good food aboard, he "fed the fishes". One day while doing this, he lost his new straw hat. As it floated away over the waves he wished he could be a sailor like that! Arriving in America, North Dakota became their state. Next, they must find some way to earn a living. Sigurd had received a note of recommendation from his employer in Norway. This note said he was an industrious, capable, happy young man. Upon the strength of this he was able to get employment on farms — seasonal work. This meant much moving around. The hardest part of each job was when he was to leave — to say goodbye to his employer and family. He always had a tender heart. By the year 1900, he had acquired a place of his own and he and Barbara Odden were married in June, 1900. (Mrs. Wold's family had come from Norway in the late 1800's also). They experienced hard times, such as lack of money getting settled as did many others. Besides hard times, the winters were desperately cold. Blizzards plagued the Dakotas, and many lasted for three to four days. Often a rope was tied from the house to the barn, thus making it safe to go out to feed and water the stock and milk the cow. The milk was often frozen by the time the house was reached. Such winters and isolation caused unrest and a desire to go where it would be better.

In 1910, Sigurd and some others ventured west and north to Saskatchewan. Here he filed on a homestead and pre-emption northwest of Swift Current. Returning to North Dakota, he and his wife made preparations to move. Having loaded the cattle and household effects into a box car, Sigurd travelled in the car with the animals, etc. Moving was no small task with five young children: **Olga, Mabel, Selma, Olaf** and **Peter**. They arrived in Webb, the closest town to their new homestead, and hitched up a team of oxen that had never been driven

before. (The trip in the box car had tamed them well), and they made their way to the homestead sixteen miles west. Here they built a sod house and a chicken house. These buildings were warm and comfy. Even the roof didn't leak - not much rain to give it a fair test, maybe! The land was smooth and level, and a real joy to an energetic man. Two hundred acres were broken with the oxen. They were hitched to the plow at three a.m. and kept at it till midmorning, then rested until late afternoon and at it again. Even at the slow pace much was accomplished in a season.

Not long after their arrival, there was need for a post office. The Wold residence was chosen and became Wheat Valley P.O. Mrs. Wold drove with horse and buggy to Webb once a week to bring back the mail. This post office was in operation until the town of Success came into existence about eight miles from the Wolds' farm.

Later, a large hip-roofed house replaced the sod house. Neighbors meant much in those days, with frequent visits and picnics, there was happiness. There was much sorrow, too, but all were willing to help each other.

Berry picking was a regular job in the summer. Berries were found abundantly in the sand hills a few miles away. On one of these trips Selma Wold, age 12, was kicked while hitching up the horse, breaking her right leg. The doctor at Swift Current put a cast on, which caused her much discomfort. They learned too late, that it was too tight and caused her leg to become gangrenous. This presented a great problem for the family. A trip to Mayo Brothers Clinic in Rochester was arranged. Here, Selma's leg was amputated. This was a great expense to the family at this time. Also, the family had to "fend" for themselves, without "mom" for several months.

Eight years on this lovely farm and only ONE crop was harvested, in 1915. Russian thistle was the only thing that thrived in the drought. It was cut at a tender stage and used as hay. The livestock enjoyed it. One winter there was no grain to finish a litter of lovely pigs. These were butchered and frozen, thus providing tender pork for the family table. One consolation, they were not the only ones who had tough going in those years of drought.

As things did not improve and times were as hard as ever, the west called again. This time the Wolds came to Alberta, and a quarter of land was purchased one mile south and half mile east of Sylvan Lake. Their eldest daughter, Olga, married Lars Bye and remained in Saskatchewan for a time, later coming to Alberta and later yet, moved to British Columbia. The move to Sylvan Lake took place in the winter of 1919-1920; a very cold winter with lots of snow. They found a small house, later moving into the "creamery house" where Mrs. Jean Palmer still resides. Feed was scarce. Mr. Wold hauled straw from near Asplund Hall for fodder. It was an all day trip, upsetting the load in a snow bank, and re-loading was a slow job! A long cold trip and not the best feed for hungry stock. Later the half section in Saskatchewan was traded for 80 acres east of Sylvan Lake where the late George Daleys lived.

Ole Odden (Mrs. Wold's brother) bought 80 acres of the Wold quarter and lived there for some time before he moved to Calgary.



Sigurd Wold and Ole Odden. Load of household goods on the way to homestead — 1911.

About this time, their second daughter, Mabel, married Nels Bergstrom, a carpenter. Nels' father had a shoe repair shop at Sylvan Lake for a number of years. Selma was also married then to Albert Krutop. They lived for a time in Alberta before moving to British Columbia where they still reside. Peter Wold and the Bergstrom family also moved to British Columbia. Peter and his wife live near Abbotsford, and the Bergstrom families are at Hope. There were also two more daughters born to the Wolds. **Gunhild** lived only 12 years before dying of a ruptured appendix and is buried in the Sylvan Lake Cemetery. **Gladys**, the youngest child, married Arthur Pickering, formerly of Durham district and they now live at Pitt Meadows, British Columbia.

In 1926, Mr. Wold purchased the SW 4-38-1-5 from the Agren estate. Here they stayed until 1933, when they moved to Sylvan Lake.

In those days we had only day time telephone service from the operators. It was arranged that anyone needing medical assistance at night could phone the Wold residence and Mr. Wold would relay the message and get the needed help.

Olaf bought the farm from his father and has farmed it since 1940. Mr. and Mrs. Sigurd Wold left in that year for British Columbia and settled in Albion. Mr. Wold worked with a survey crew who surveyed the route from Haney to Port Moody, which later became the Lougheed Highway. After his retirement, he lived in New Westminster. In 1962 Mrs. Wold passed away. Sigurd Wold spent his last few years at Mission, British Columbia and passed away April 5, 1975, a month and six days less than 96 years. Both are laid to rest in Maple Ridge Cemetery.

OLAF AND IRENE WOLD

The eldest son, Olaf, born May 1, 1908 at Sheyenne, North Dakota, was the only one of the family to remain in Alberta.

In 1933, he was married to Irene Bell of Delburne, whose father came from Scotland in the early 1900's. Mr. Bell homesteaded five miles west and two miles south of Delburne. Her mother also came from Scotland at a young age with her parents, the late Mr. and Mrs. George Purdie of the Valley Centre district, east of Red Deer. To Olaf and Irene Wold were born a daughter **Helen**, and a son, **Raymond**. Helen is married to Grant Gillespie of the Stettler area. They now reside in Victoria with their five sons, Milan, Murray, Craig, David and Darcey, and one daughter, Melanie. When Olaf and Irene were married in 1933 they took up residence at SW 4-38-1-5, at which time the Senior Wolds moved to Sylvan Lake. Olaf and his father farmed together until 1940 when Olaf took over the farm.

The years of the '30's were hard for everyone; to make a living was about all one could do. Getting married in those years took a lot of "grit" which most soon realized. However, the cows were one source of income that never failed. The opening of the Condensery at Red Deer was a real lift. We started to ship milk in 1936. Hauling the milk to Sylvan Lake to meet the milk truck was a daily chore. Roads were not like they are today and many times it was not a pleasant task. Vince Bell became one of the first milk haulers, using horses and a wagon. One time, the wheels on the wagon looked like barrels as he struggled through muddy roads. Soon he decided to

buy a truck, which was a great help to him. Rain or shine the milk truck came. After a time, Bryan and Duke Bell had a hand in the milk hauling business, too. One cold day in winter, Duke was hauling the milk and was badly stuck in snow drifts near Pete Ammeters'. Olaf set out to help him with the pintos and the sleigh box. On the way he got the help of Fred Grimson and his "cat" tractor. After hours of struggling in the cold and the snow, the milk cans, frozen solid, were loaded into the sleigh box. Fred finally got the truck out of difficulty, but by this time it was midnight. The milk was put in Fred's garage for the night and the next day Duke had twice the amount to deliver. Many incidents in mud and snow can be recalled, but the milk was taken, thanks to the Bell boys. Often we said we would rather milk the cows than haul the milk. A motto which hung in the creamery said "The Cow — the Mother of Prosperity". You better believe it!

Horse power gave way to tractors and heavier machinery, thus farming became easier. In the 1940's the Anderson quarter and our pasture quarter south of Earl Grimson's were purchased — things were looking up! Calgary power came our way in 1949. A barn was built in 1950, the old one was torn down. Now we could really milk cows, as we obtained a milking machine. This milking chore continued until January, 1970 — our last milk cheque and 37 years of milking.

In 1960, another huge task was undertaken. We tore down the old house and proceeded to have the new one built on the same spot. This done, we could begin to take things easier and see the farming carried on by the next generation.

RAYMOND AND JEAN WOLD

Raymond was born on April 9, 1939, on Easter Sunday. He always enjoyed the farm animals and the outdoors. His favorite saying as a small boy was "Let's go do the chores". By the time he was 11, his Dad had a farm hand to fit on the tractor. Ray handled it from that time on and the job of putting up the hay and straw no longer was done by fork. He always planned to farm, but decided milk cows or chickens were not for him. His idea was of a mixed farm with hogs and range cattle, which he still has.

In 1962, March 17, he married Jean Montgomery of Calgary. They have three children; **Linda**, who is eleven, **Lee**, seven and **Heather**, six. All the children love the outdoors and enjoy the animals.

The farm is the best place for children to grow up — to know the freedom and have the space to run and play.

THE WOYCHYSHYNS

Tony Woychyshyn bought the Gronnestad farm, SE 22-38-1-5, and Tony and Verda and family moved into the Burnt Lake district in 1966. They sold their house in Innisfail, where they had lived for ten years. Tony worked as a bartender in the Innisfail Hotel, then took a position in the Sylvan Lake Hotel as a tap man, where he worked for twelve years.

Tony was born and raised at Newdale, Manitoba, where his parents had farmed. He has three sisters and five brothers. Tony left home at the early age of sixteen and came to Alberta where he worked on farms and in sawmills. In 1939 he joined the army and served in World War II until 1945. After the war he returned to Alberta

and started farming for himself in the Keoma district, and later on he farmed in the Bowden district.

Verda was born and raised in the Elnora district. Her father, the late William Lee, came to the Elnora district about the turn of the century, and took up a homestead there. Verda has three sisters and four brothers. Her brother, Percy, still lives on the family farm.

There are six McKinley children by a former marriage. **Shirley** married Dan Rutschke of Sylvan Lake, where Dan is the Manager of Revelstoke Lumber Yard. **Marlene** married Alan Churchill of Innisfail. They own and operate Al's Appliance Shop. **Tom**, the oldest of the boys married the former Edith Weeks of Castor. Tom and his family now reside at Botha. Tom is employed at Halkirk Mines as a caterpillar operator. The three younger boys, **Marv**, **Tony** and **Jack** are still at home on the family farm. There are eight grandchildren.

ALBERT AND BIRDIE YEO

Mr. and Mrs. Yeo moved from Saskatchewan to the Burnt Lake district in the spring of 1973 and purchased the former Seventh-day Adventist Church and surrounding lots located in the old townsite of Stockholm, directly across from the present Burnt Lake Community Centre. Their son Fred had bought this property in 1970 when the Adventists built their new church at Sylvan Lake. The Yeos completely renovated this building into a beautiful modern home.

Mr. Yeo had come from London, England as a small child and a highlight for him was a return visit in May of 1975 to his old home to visit relatives. Mrs. Yeo was born in Kamsack, Saskatchewan.

They enjoyed living here but returned to Saskatchewan in the summer of 1975 due to Mr. Yeo's

poor health. He is now in a nursing home in Regina. They were also lonesome for the rest of their family. The Les Nielsen family purchased this property from the Yeos.

FRED AND EVELYN YEO

Fred was born on January 17, 1933 in Gleneven, Saskatchewan to Albert and Birdie Yeo. He was working in Penhold, Alberta when he met Evelyn Janet, born January 10, 1936, daughter of Ronald and Mable MacMillan. They were married at The First Baptist Church in Red Deer on December 3, 1952.

They did quite a bit of travelling before buying the acreage on NW-4-38-1-5 from Peter Oleson in 1969. Fred is self-employed under the name of Mainline Electric. He has his Masters Electrical certificate and employs two full time journeyman electricians.

Fred and Evelyn have six children; **Phyllis Sandra Lee**, born August 2, 1953 in Edmonton, married Gordon Kerik of Delburne on January 6, 1973. They have two little girls, Cheryl and Cari. **Kerry Ronald Wayne**, born on June 12, 1956 in Winnipeg, joined the Armed Forces and took a cook's trade. On November 20, 1976 he married Marquettea Youngblood in Greenforest, Arkansas, U.S.A. They are now living at Sylvan Lake and working in Red Deer. **Calvin Fredrick James**, was born November 22, 1957 in Oliver, British Columbia; **Dale Albert Edward** was born January 2, 1963 at Rimbey, Alberta; **Darrell Gregory** was born February 28, 1965 in Rimbey, Alberta and **Janice Darlene Elizabeth** was born April 28, 1970 in Eckville, Alberta. The three younger children attend the Sylvan Meadows Academy.



7
Grouse Hill on the Bowdoin Creek.



1. Einar Einarson moving his house — 1933. 2. Roy Nystrom — OH! 3. Mr. and Mrs. Nils Soderberg and Andrew Halvorson making sausage — 1923. 4. Pearson family on stoneboat. 5. One horse shay complete with sleigh bells — 1919 — Hilda Halverson. 6. Hunting — Bill Stockman, Axel Johanson, John Johanson. 7. Dwight Sawyer's dog team — 1942.



Starting at bottom clockwise — 1. Alvina Dallaire — 1929 — School dress. 2. Burnt Lake Mothers and Pre-schoolers — 1938. L. to R. Mrs. P. Sveinson, Mrs. J. Johanson, Mrs. J. O. Johnson, Mrs. A. Halvorson, Mrs. G. Grimson, Mrs. P. Ammeter, Mrs. S. Swainson, Mrs. S. Smith, Mrs. F. T. Dallaire, Mrs. G. Hermary, Mrs. C. J. Johanson, Mrs. E. Sveinson, Mrs. L. Erickson. Children — Back Row — Eric Johanson holding George, Dennis Sveinson, Mildred Erickson,

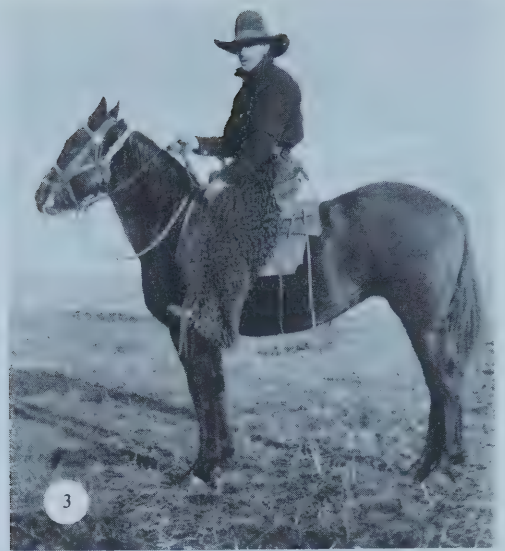
Helen Swainson, Pearl Swainson, Norman Ammeter, Roland Ammeter, Winston Johanson, Maurice Hermary. Front — Juliana Dallaire, June Erickson, LaVona Grimson, Gladys Sveinson, Bernadette Hermary, Yvonne Johanson. 3. Lorna Bennett and Edith Cody — 1920's — Sportswear. 4. Elvira Olson — 1920's — High fashion in shoes. 5. Alvina Dallaire — 1929 — Latest in swim suit.



1. Rodney Johanson — 1928 — notice furniture style. Starting centre, left. 1. Model T. Touring Car — 1920's. 2. Model T. Sedan — 1920's. 3. Buick Touring — 1920's. 4. Buick Sedan — 1920's.



1. L. to R. Hugo Selstrom, Geo. Stephenson, Gunnar Bjelke, Oswald Moore, Einar Einarson, Ralph Moberg, Charlie Finlay. 2. Hauling lumber. 3. Burnt Lake boys at Frank Dallaire camp. 4. Dave Sarmen and Andrew Halvorson hauling logs. 5. Sawing wood. 6. Fred Ponto, Nils Soderberg, Ingve Soderberg — the finished product. 7. Paul Sveinson — before the age of gas.



Clockwise from bottom left — 1. John Lindman and his trophy — Chariot race — 1967. 2. Glenn Halvorson with his team of oxen, giving Grandma Halvorson a ride — 1974. 3. Levi Erickson on "Ace". 4. Ellis

Sveinson — 1927. 5. John Lindman's show team, Bill and King — 1937.

Left — T. to Bottom — John Johanson clearing land — 1920. 2. Jonas Bergstrom plowing — early 1920's. 3. Nick Halverson seeding timothy — 1932. Right Top to Bottom — Discing; threshing at Eric Johansons 1915; threshing at Andrew Halvorsens 1927; Frank Dallaire hauling grain with 150 bushel grain tank — 1934; fun in the straw pile — the Dallaires.



1. Carl J. Johanson milking outside. 2. Levi Erickson cutting grain — 1926. 3. Horse drawn drill. 4. Wold Family — 1915. 5. Grimsons hauling hay — 1940. 6. Nick Halverson plowing. 7. Oskar Wesslen — 1910.





Dad & mother



3



1. Silo at Stan Swainsons. 2. Mr. and Mrs. John Halverson on hay sweep — 1916. 3. Alfred and Stan Swainson and Elder Nixon combining — 1950. 4. Filling barn. 5. Frank Dallaire drilling a well — 1929. Stanley and Herbert Allard helping. 6. Nick Halverson haying — over-throw stacker.

Exerts Marianne Centerville District DCE 1 W 5 DCE 1 W 5 Burnt Lake

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CENTERVILLE

CENTERVILLE DISTRICT HISTORY — by George Fitch

The Centerville District had its official beginning with the organization of School District No. 791 in the spring of 1903. The name of Centerville was agreed upon by the settlers at that time because of the fact that the district took in all the land between Kuusamo, Burnt Lake and Hola which school districts had already been organized. The homesteaders were composed of various nationalities and while they were not hand-picked, they were second to none.

Our community had and still has a people of honesty and integrity, men and women of a high moral and spiritual standard. During the early years no home was ever locked and no traveller was turned away without food. Sometimes there was little to offer, but it was shared willingly.

We will endeavor to cover the organization of the district, the first school building, the homesteaders and early settlers, their place of residence, as well as their social and spiritual life. We will also try to give a brief outline of items of interest regarding the community as a whole from its beginning to the present time 1976.

We plan to enclose a section map showing lands contained within the original boundaries of the district. Mention will be made of boundary changes which took place when the Marianne District was organized.

To begin with, we will deal with the homesteader giving the land number on which each one settled, also those who lived on or owned these properties through the years to the present time.

The earliest settlers were the Stephanson family who arrived with the group of Icelanders who came to the Markerville area in 1889.

The Icelandic Poet, Stephen G. Stephanson, settled on the N.E. $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 22-T37-R2-W5 in or about 1889. That was before the land was surveyed, but the land so settled on was known as squatters rights and application for homestead could then be made as soon as the survey was completed. It may be well to mention here that the Icelandic spelling from the poet's name was "Stefan G. Stefansson". The family lived on this location for a time, later moving to the homestead of the poet's mother — the S.E. $\frac{1}{4}$ of 10-T37-R2-W5. This became their permanent home. The first Hola school was a log structure built on this land. Before going further it may be wise to list the section numbers in the Centerville District and then take each section in order, thus avoiding some con-

fusion as the reader can then refer to the map in each case.

In Township 37 — Range 1, we had Sections 30, 31 and 32, and at a later date, Section 19. In Township 38 — Range 1, we had Section 5, 6, 7 and 8. In Township 37 — Range 2, we had 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 33, 34, 35 and 36. (All of Centerville was West of the 5th Meridian.) In Township 38 — Range 2, we had Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 10, 11 and 12.

Now back to Section 22-T37-R2. As already mentioned, the Icelandic Poet homesteaded the N.E. $\frac{1}{4}$.

Baldur, the Poet's oldest son, took the S.E. $\frac{1}{4}$ building across the slough on the south side of his land. Here he lived for a number of years later moving two or three miles to the southwest. Here he raised his family and spent his lifetime. The homestead land has changed several times and is presently owned by G. Earl Fitch.

The S.W. $\frac{1}{4}$ was homesteaded by John Olson about 1901. John was a son-in-law of Kristjan Sigurdson and lived for a time with his inlaws. The two older children, Regina and Fred, attended the Centerville school for a time. However, after the Olsons settled on their own land which was on the west side of the slough, the children went to Hola School. John Olson was a man who was community minded having served on the Centerville School Board as well as having been Councillor of the Local Improvement District. He was also a carpenter being one who helped build the Centerville School and other buildings throughout the district. The land is presently owned by A. Chaumont.

Kristjan Sigurdson came from Baldur, Manitoba in 1901 and homesteaded the N.W. $\frac{1}{4}$ of 22-37-2-W5. He purchased the S.E. of 27-37-2 where he lived throughout his entire lifetime. Kristjan was Icelandic.

It may be well at this time to mention that the odd number sections in this area had been granted to the Canadian Pacific Railway when the railroad was built through Red Deer. This did not include Sections 11 and 29 which were reserved for school purposes. We should also say that the Canadian Pacific Railway was exempt from taxation for a period of twenty-five years which reached to about 1910.

Kristjan had children namely, Gudrun, who married John Olson. Sigurdur, who married a daughter of the Icelandic Poet. Sarah, Fonci, Frank and Chris. Fonci ran a blacksmith shop for years at Markerville. Frank is still living, but is confined to a nursing home. Chris died some years ago. He was married to May Brown. There are five

children, Norman, Frank, Elmer, Doris and Wilma. The land still belongs to members of the Sigurdson family.

The west and the S.E. ¼ of Section 28-37-2 was homesteaded by members of the Dooney family. They only remained a few years in the district. We do not believe this land was included in the Centerville District as it was across the big slough which was quite difficult to cross in those days.

The N.E. ¼ of Section 28-37-2 was originally classed as a hay reserve, but was opened for homestead and filed on by Joe Ferguson about 1910. The land changed hands several times, but is presently owned by members of the Sigurdson family.

We now go to Section 34-37-2-W5. Settled in 1902 to 1904. The S.E. ¼ was homesteaded by G. Sigurdson. The family consisted of husband and wife and one daughter, Lily. They resided here until about 1913. At this time leaving for British Columbia, Lily took her public school at Centerville and some High School at Red Deer. After completing her education, she returned and taught school one term at Marianne. They were Icelandic.

The land was farmed for a time by two brothers of the Rasmussen family, later being purchased by Siggi Sigurdson where he and his wife lived until their death in the sixties. They had one daughter, Edna, who is also deceased. The land is presently owned by Russell W. Fitch.

The S.W. ¼ of Section 34-37-2 was taken by Ofeigur Gudbrandson. Ofeigur was also Icelandic. His buildings were located on the south bank of the creek which started from a spring on the S.E. ¼. This spring still runs a good stream. One of the best in the whole area at present supporting a good trout pond. There were two children in the family. The boy, Sam, attended the local school the second year it was in operation. Unfortunately, Ofeigur's wife deserted him and since it was impossible to carry on with two young children they soon left the district. George Fitch recalls that his father sold Ofeigur a small pig which he carried home in a sack. The land is now owned by Russell Fitch.

The N.W. ¼ was homesteaded by Charles Schill about 1902. The Schill's were Swedish and came in from the Central States. There were four children in the Schill family. Annie, Emil, Esther, and Albin. Charles died before proving up on the homestead, but his wife Tilda was allowed to complete the requirements. Later she was permitted to homestead the N.E. ¼ of Section 10-T38-R2.

After being widowed for a time, Tilda Schill married John Johnson who had a homestead on S.W. ¼ Section 10-T38-R2. She had two children by her second marriage; Henry and Hilda. The Schill land is now owned by Tilda's daughter of her second marriage.

We will give a brief account of the Schill descendants along with those of their mother's second marriage. Listed under John Johnson, who homesteaded the S.W. ¼ of Section 10-T38-R2.

The N.E. ¼ of Section 34-T37-R2 was taken by Earl B. Fitch in May of 1904. He was granted citizenship at the Wetaskiwin Court House May 22, 1907. We will not say more regarding members of the Fitch families because quite complete biographies of the individual branches of the Fitch's will be supplied in this book.

Section 36-T37-R2.

The N.W. ¼ of the above section was homestead by R. J. Fanson, "Jim". He and his wife and one son Herbert settled here in about 1902. They came from Ontario. Jim was a barber by trade which he worked at in Red Deer during the winter months the first two years, leaving the family on the farm.

We believe that Jim was a member of the first school board. The family were highly respected and took their full share in anything which was promoted for the benefit of the Community. They nearly always boarded the teacher.

Herb attended the local school the first four years it was in operation. He homesteaded west of Rocky Mountain House about 1911 where he was taken sick and died suddenly in 1913. The Fansons took a girl, Elisa Johnson to raise. She married George Wade who was teaching the Centerville School. The Wades live in Vancouver. After this, the Fansons adopted a baby girl; Hazel. She married Ross Chambers while the Fansons were back in Ontario for a few years. The family later returned to the farm where Jim died. The Chambers live in Rocky Mountain House. The farm was sold to Oliver and Edward Bystrom. At present, Sandy Lauder owns an acreage on the N.E. corner of the quarter.

The S.W. ¼ was homestead by Clarence H. Fitch in 1902. A Biography of Clarence's family will appear later in this book under the name "Fitch".

The east half of Section 36-T37-R2 was homesteaded by Clare Stone on the N.E. ¼ and his father H. G. Stone on the S.E. ¼. The Stones spent little time on the land because they operated a funeral home in Red Deer for many years. However, they managed to prove up on their homesteads. The H. G. Stone quarter is presently owned by Alf Johnson of Edmonton.

The N.E. ¼ was bought by Elof Holmgren about 1929 and is at present owned by Ivan Holland.

We expect to supply further on the Holmgren family under "Early Settlers".

Now let us go to Section 24-T37-R2. The N.W. ¼ was homesteaded by T. Gudmundson probably before the turn of the century. This land was acquired about 1905 by Ed Fitch. In 1915, Thomas Thompson rented the place later buying it. Thomas left the district in 1951 selling out to Gus Walter, the present owner. This book will also include the Biography of Thomas Thompson.

The N.E. ¼ was homesteaded by Mundi Stephanson, "son of the poet". This was about 1897. This land was also held by Thomas Thompson and is presently owned by the Walter Family.

The S.E. ¼ was taken by Mike Quinn in 1901. The Quinn Biography will be included later in this book. A family by the name of Westbrook resided on this property for a short time. The land was bought by G. J. Moore in 1909 and is presently in possession of members of the Moore family. A biography of the Moore family will also appear in later pages.

The S.W. ¼ was homesteaded by Charles Quinn, a brother of Mike. About 1905, Fred Hogaboam settled on this land. The Hogaboams remained here a few years. Two of their children attended the Centerville School; Ida and Albert. Albert went by the name of "Hicky" at school.

Arthur Moore and his wife Grace, settled on this place in 1916. Arthur had a new house built before Grace came to the district. They were a highly respected couple by all who knew them. After Arthur and Grace passed on, their son Frank continued to operate the farm. Frank later married, and after a few years, sold the place and retired to Red Deer. At present, the Matthews possess the original Arthur Moor holdings.

John Surdam Fitch "Jack" and family, settled on the N.E. ¼ of Section 26-T37-R2 in the spring of 1901. Jack also purchased other land at the time. He came to spy out the land in December of 1900, driving up from Calgary with a team. He often remarked about the mild weather at the time and of riding in shirt sleeves during the sunny afternoons. A biography will appear later.

If we may be pardoned, let us go beyond our boundaries for the moment and mention two other early homesteaders. One, George Harvey. He took the N.E. ¼ of Section 12-T37-R2, early in the century. We understand he operated a blacksmith shop in Markerville for a short time, later going to Red Deer. He opened and operated a shop on Gaetz Avenue near where the Waskasoo Hotel now stands. The shop was later sold to Hugh McLevin.

Martin Quinn, homesteaded the N.W. ¼ of Section 18-T37-R1 about 1900 according to our best information. He was a Boer War veteran also a member of the N.W. Mounted Police. He had served several years on the force throughout this area and is probably chiefly responsible for his brothers and the Fitch family settling here. Martin Quinn will be mentioned further in the Biography of Quinn.

Section 30-T37-R1.

The S.W. ¼ of the above section was homesteaded by William Dickson in 1902. "Dicky" as he was commonly known by many, came from England. He was quite well educated, but not really cut out for a farmer. He worked during the first summer for Jack Fitch. He was a man keenly interested in the well being of the community and served several terms both as chairman and secretary of the Board of Trustees of the School District.

"Dicky" died in the early thirties and his property which included the N.E. of Section 25-T37-R2 as well as his homestead was purchased by one Edd Watson of Red Deer. At present, the homestead is owned by Axel Bystrom and the other quarter by H. S. Bystrom.

The N.W. ¼ of Section 30-T37-R1 was taken by Roy Stone in 1902. He with his brother and father were partners in the funeral parlor operation in Red Deer. It should also be mentioned that Roy and Clare had a painting business — having painted the Centerville school in 1912.

Roy also lived on the farm about two years during the First World War.

The land became the property of J. B. Bystrom in the late twenties, presently owned by his son, H. S. Bystrom.

The S.E. ¼ of Section 30 was settled on by Sidney Shaw also in 1902. "Sid" was from Ontario. After a year or two here, he went east and returned with a wife. They never had children of their own, but adopted a boy and a girl after a number of years.

The Shaws did well on the farm acquiring other land. This land is S.W. ¼ of Section 29-T37-R1 and the N.W.

¼ of Section 20-T37-R1. This quarter had originally been homesteaded by Clarence Petro.

The Shaw family moved to Red Deer in 1919 where Sid in partnership with Donald Smith, ran the Cockshutt Agency.

Several renters farmed the land for a number of years. W. Mills, Sandy Smith, Archibald, Tates and Fitch Bros. It is presently owned by Emil Hilman.

The N.E. ¼ of the Section was homesteaded by one John Hobster. Hobster was a German and a stone mason by trade. He put a stone foundation under the local school and fenced the grounds about 1910. He also did considerable carpenter work locally. The land was purchased by Swan Bystrom in 1913, and is presently owned by Axel Bystrom. We will include a biography of the Bystrom family in this book.

We move now to T-38-R2, beginning with Section 2.

The S.W. ¼ was filed on by H. J. Fitch in 1902.

The S.E. ¼ by O. D. Fitch in 1903. The N.E. ¼ by P. B. Fitch in 1904.

Further on these three quarters, will be covered in biographies of Fitch.

The N.W. ¼ of Section 2-T38-R2 was taken by Horton Wilcox. Horton also bought the N.E. of Section 3-T38. It should be mentioned here that this was C.P.R. land and could be had at that time for three dollars per acre. Terms were given. Total on terms was Sixty dollars per year for ten years. This covered principal and interest. The Wilcox's built a rather better than average home for the times, but had the misfortune to lose everything by fire after a short time. This was a real burden to the Wilcox's. They were past middle age and Horton was a cripple having a stiff knee. The neighbors banded together and built them a small log house which with an addition added, later served them until they left the district in 1918. They returned to Kansas where they died. They left no descendants.

The Wilcox land was held for a time by R. B. Welliver, a Real Estate dealer in Red Deer. It was farmed by the Joe Hainsworth family in 1919. There were six children in the Hainsworth family. About 1920, Jim Tobin bought the place. Jim married Lila Jackson of Evarts. Jim's great interest was an effort to construct a machine which would produce perpetual motion. After Lila died, Jim and his young son moved to the Caroline district.

The land is presently owned by Carl Feitl.

Section 4-T38-R2-W5.

There may be some question as to whether this section was in Centerville or Evarts District, but the writer believes it was originally a part of Centerville.

The S.W. ¼ was homesteaded by D. S. Smith, but we are unable to say if this was Donald Smith who with his brothers, Sam and Oliver, established the "Smith Brothers Island Ranch" with headquarters on the S.E. ¼ of Section 6 which was one mile west in the Evarts District.

The S.E. ¼ was taken by Oluf Norman, a Norwegian, about 1902. Oluf lived alone all the years he was on the place. He did his farming at one time with three oxen. Oluf did considerable hand work for many of his neighbours, chiefly clearing land. He was a steady dependable worker. Oluf spent his last years at a home in

Camrose which we believe was run by the Lutheran Church.

The land is now owned by some of the Bramall family.

The N.E. ¼ was homesteaded by William Otto around 1902. "Bill" bought the S.E. ¼ of Section 9 which adjoined him. It was on this latter quarter where the family lived during the years they were in the district. The wife's uncle stayed with the family. There was one girl Emms, about the writer's age and a boy somewhat younger.

We recall that about 1906, a young girl walking along the trail which crossed Section 3 was chased by a coyote. Needless to say, she was terrified. The following day, Bill Otto and his uncle managed to shoot the old dog and wound the female. They borrowed a shovel from E. B. Fitch who lived one half mile away and dug out the pups. George Fitch was allowed to keep one, but his father soon found it advisable to destroy it.

The Otto place was sold about 1907 to a Scottish family. Walker by name. The family included the mother, three sons and three daughters. Mrs. Walker later married a man by the name of Craig and moved to Trinidad. Two of the sons farmed the land for a number of years. The land was finally sold to Peter Cameron, but the home quarter is presently owned by Harry and Alice Durward. The older and younger Walker girls married the McDonald Brothers from what was at that time known as Pitcox (Hespero). The other girl, Annie, kept house for her two brothers on the farm for several years and later married George Wright who established the Whitehills Dairy west of Penhold. One of the sons, Leslie, after leaving the farm, was Town Clerk at Sylvan Lake.

The N.W. ¼ of Section 4 was homesteaded by J. MacDonald. As far as we can recall, there were no children. They seemingly left the district soon after getting title to the land.

The Armstrong Brothers spent one winter on the MacDonald place when they came to the area from the Southcentral States. The brothers took up residence and spent their lives some six miles north of Evarts. It must be said that they were a very colorful group and well known in a large area.

There was one girl. She married Jess Craig of the Happy Hill district.

About 1906 the MacDonald place was purchased by a family by the name of Willoughby. This family spent at least the first winter on the N.E. of 32 which had been homesteaded by Vigfus Haldorson. They later took up residence on their own property also acquiring the S.W. ¼ of Section 4 and the N.E. of 33-T37. There was one girl, Elizabeth, who attended the Centerville School at least one year.

In about 1912, the Robertson family from Scotland bought the Willoughby land. There were two brothers, David and Bob, who was a cook and worked more or less at Nordegg. In later years the brothers bought the Haldorson house and moved it on the S.W. ¼ and lived there. We should report that the Robertson brothers had three sisters. Kate, who married Abram Frew. Maggie, who remained single, Nellie, who late in life married Donald Blair. These three spent their sunset years at Sylvan Lake. The land is now owned by Bill Staniforth.

We will at this time report on those who homesteaded.

Section 10-T38-R2. We will give the various residents and present owners.

The N.W. of Section 10 was taken by Eric Mannerfeldt probably about 1902. He built a small log house near the center of the quarter where he lived alone the first two or three years. About this time, a widow arrived from Sweden and she and Eric were married at C. P. Anderson's who also lived in Centerville. Soon after their marriage Eric sold his three oxen in order to pay the fare for his wife's two sons to come from Sweden. The boys names were Edwin and Ragnar. They both took the Mannerfeldt name. We recall that several years later Eric told E. B. Fitch that he made a good trade when he sold the oxen to get the boys. Truly much could be said in their favor.

Tilda Schill homesteaded the N.E. ¼ after she was widowed and before she married John Johnson.

William Peacock, "Billie" settled on the S.E. ¼ probably about 1902 or 1903. He probably did not remain more than ten years. He was a single man. His father and mother stayed with him for a year or two, also a niece, "Lenore Ross". She attended the Centerville school about 1910.

About 1914 the Rasmussen family moved on the place staying a matter of two years. 1914 and 1915. The old folk had four sons. Hans, Chris, Ernest and Sam. Hans operated the blacksmith shop at Evarts for a short time that he and his wife lived in the village. Chris served on the Edmonton police force and also started a broom factory in the city. He married an Edmonton girl. Ernest was new married when they came to Alberta. He and Sam rented the G. Sigurdson place for four years (S.E. 34-37-2). The Rasmussen's all returned to the states around 1918. In 1916 the Bieraugel's took up residence on the Peacock place leaving for the Peace River area in 1917. We should add that a nephew, Bill and his wife, remained and lived for many years at Sylvan Lake until Bill passed away.

John Johnson homesteaded the S.W. ¼ of Section 10. This was in all probability also about 1902. After living alone for a time, he married a widow with four children. "Tilda Schill". John and Tilda had two children. This made six in the family. The Schill children retained their father's name so will be referred to in that way. Annie and Emil Schill attended the Centerville school while they lived on their father's place, but after moving to the home of their stepfather, they and their younger sister and brother, "Esther" and "Albin" went to Evarts until about 1907, then returned to Centerville.

Annie Schill married Carl Pearson of Burnt Lake. Emil married Florence Dingman. After his marriage, Emil opened a shop at Benalto and also operated a grain elevator.

Esther married Gus Nilson. Gus worked on a bridge crew for the C.N.R.

Albin left Alberta in the fall of 1923 to attend College in Philadelphia.

The Schill's all died in middle age with a heart condition.

John Johnson had two children with his wife Tilda. Henry was born in May 1904 and Hilda a few years later.

Henry married Annie Ardel. They make their home in Calgary.

Hilda's first husband was Walter Valli. They have two children. Walter met his death in an accident. After a few years she married Oliver Bystrom. They reside on the home farm.

Section 12-T38-R2.

Mention at this time must be made of the fact that when the Marianne School District was organized in 1910, one row of sections on the north boundary of Centerville was transferred to Marianne. However, we have included those on Section 10 and will also give a brief account of those on Section 12.

The S.E. $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 12 was homesteaded by Ed Larson, later owned by Gus Hanson. During the twenties the Baker family and the Dingman family spent a short time on the place. William Sheppard later purchased the land and settled there. The Sheppard's had one adopted daughter "Joyce". They sold the place to D. A. Bell and retired to Red Deer in the early fifties. The Sheppard's were a highly respected couple.

The S.W. $\frac{1}{4}$ was taken by Fred Pion. Fred kept the land until about 1923 when it was sold to Walter Tiihonen. Members of the Tiihonen family still own the land.

We might mention that the Tom Meyer family lived with Fred Pion for several years. Tom worked for various ones in the community.

The N.W. of Section 12 was homesteaded by Mattson. We can report nothing further except that the land was purchased by Alex Staudinger about 1925 and still belongs to the Staudingers.

Oscar Norby settled on the N.E. of Section 12-38-2 probably about 1902 as was most of the land in Centerville. Oscar also purchased the N.W. of Section 7-T38-R1 when he put up more permanent buildings and lived with his family for quite some years. We believe Oscar was a member of the Centerville School Board for a time.

Oscar's homestead is presently owned by the Staudingers. The land where he lived passed through several hands. i.e. the Sandy York family later the Kenzles and presently owned by Dietrich Ammeter.

Section 6-T38-R1-W5.

The S.W. $\frac{1}{4}$ was filed on by Alfred Brostrom. He held the land for a number of years bringing a fair amount under cultivation and constructing a good fence along the south line. The land was bought previous to 1920 by Harry Nelson and Harry's parents lived in retirement there for several years before going to Sylvan Lake. The land in turn passed through the hands of P. Ammeter and Bill Schafer. Now owned by D. A. Bell.

The N.W. of Section 6-T38-R1 was homesteaded by Carl Wesslin. This land came into the possession of Njordur Anderson previous to 1920. Njordur had homesteaded the S.E. $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 18-38-2 early in the century. His son George lived on this newly acquired land for a few years. George was married to Florence, a daughter of August Johnson. This couple later moved to Detroit and the land passed into the hands of John Johnson who lived on the S.W. of 10-T38-R2. In late 1924, F. M. "Bob" Hodges (a First World War Veteran) purchased the farm where he and Ivy remained until 1952. They retired to Victoria. There were two sons, David and Roy. Bob and

Ivy were very active in Sunday School work at Centerville.

The N.E. $\frac{1}{4}$ was homesteaded by John Wedin. The S.E. by Dave Atof.

This half section was bought by the Henry Jamieson family along with the entire section of 5-38-1 about 1912. Mr. and Mrs. Jamieson along with Dave, Harvey and their sister, Mrs. Jim McKechnie lived on section 5 until Harvey's marriage then the parents along with Dave, Mrs. McKechnie and her brother-in-law, Rev. W. G. McKechnie, settled on the S.E. of Section 6. The brother-in-law held services at Centerville for at least two summers. Rev. McKechnie was highly respected by all.

In 1918 the Jamiesons left the farm trading the east half of Section 6 to Earl Grimson for a hardware business at Sylvan Lake. In 1921 the half section was bought by Bertram Bell. The land is at present in possession of members of the Bell family.

Section 32-T37-R1.

This was no doubt settled early in 1900. C. P. Anderson, homesteaded the S.E. $\frac{1}{4}$ and later purchased the N.E. $\frac{1}{4}$ which had been taken by L. Olson. The Andersons moved on this N.E. $\frac{1}{4}$ and continued to live there all their lives. There were three children in the family: Charlie, Stone and Carrie. The boys never married and are now deceased. Carrie married George Nicholson. They lived for years just beyond the south boundary of the district, and finally retired to Red Deer. Carrie is now widowed. During the First World War, the Andersons bought the S.E. $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 31-T37-R1. This land was later purchased by B. G. Bell. At present, Edna Bergstrom owns an acreage on this quarter, the balance belongs to D. A. Bell.

The N.W. of Section 32-T37-R1 was homesteaded by Gus Nelson. This family were not too long in the district. They spent some time in B.C., we believe later settling west of Evarts. The Richard Trumble family bought the place previous to the First World War. They built a better house near the road where they lived with their son Ray until selling the farm to Harry Nelson in 1928 and moved to the U.S.A. The Heins family took over about 1948, but sold out to Carl Bergstrom after Mrs. Heins death. The land is presently owned by Carl's widow, Edna.

The S.W. $\frac{1}{4}$ was homesteaded by O. Nelson. The Nelsons had one son, Harry. The family were quite prosperous. About the time of the First War, Harry bought a threshing outfit and operated it around the community. He also bought the S.W. $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 6-T38-R1 where his parents retired for a time before moving to Sylvan Lake.

It may now be of interest to make mention of some who purchased the CPR land in the district and those who have held it since to the present.

Section 19-T37-R1.

This land was bought early in the century by Oscar Hooey. He was a school teacher and held the land only as an investment. During the First World War, Ed Beason bought the section but after a few years left because of tight money and inability to keep up payments. Later Fortman and Elliott gave it a try, but the hungry thirties proved too much for them so a new agreement was made and John Elliott retained the North Half, Hooey reclaiming the South half.

The S.E. ¼ was later bought by Bill Hilman. The S.W. by Arthur Walker. Present owners of the section are: N.E. ¼ — Kris Johnson, S.E. and S.W. — G. Earl Fitch, N.W. — Gus Mannerfeldt. We should note here that some seventy years ago, Oscar Hooey deeded two acres on the N.W. corner of the section to the Presbyterian Church, but as no use was made of it, the acreage now belongs to Gus Mannerfeldt.

Section 23-T37-R2.

This as has been mentioned was CPR land. In 1911 Ed Fitch bought the S.W. ¼ which in the early years produced a fair crop of wild hay. The Ed Fitch family left the district for Montana in 1915 and this quarter reverted to the CPR. After a few years it was purchased by Fonci Sigurdson, but is presently owned by G. Earl Fitch. The N.W. ¼ was bought by G. J. Moore now owned by the Walter family. They also now own the N.E. ¼. The east half was bought by Thomas Thompson. In 1951, the G. J. Moore family bought the N.E. ¼ from Thompson. The S.E. was divided. The north 80 acres went to Frank Moore, now owned by R. C. Matthews and the south 80 acres to Ed Krause, now owned by his son, David.

Section 27-T37-R2.

Kristjan Sigurdson settled on the S.E. quarter of this section early in the century. Members of the family still reside on this property as well as owning the balance of the section.

Section 26-T37-R2.

Three quarters of this section were owned by the Hudson Bay Company. The N.W. ¼ was bought by J. S. (Jack) Fitch about the time of the First War. Presently owned by Jake Heth. The S.E. ¼ was purchased by Henry Clarkins during the twenties. Henry had homesteaded the S.E. of 14-T37-R2, but moved to the newly acquired land. This is presently owned by Ronald Moore.

The S.W. ¼ was bought by Fonci Sigurdson. Fonci spent his retiring years on this quarter after disposing of his business in Markerville. The land is now owned by Melvin Wells.

Section 33-T37-R2.

Also CPR land, the S.E. ¼ was bought by Mike Quinn about 1901, later held by G. J. Moore. Presently owned by R. W. Fitch. The S.W. ¼ was acquired also about 1901 by J. S. Fitch. About 1916, Jack traded this land for a Flour City gas tractor which was used for threshing a number of years in the community. This land is now owned by members of the John Olson family. The N.W. ¼ was bought by John Johnson, but we are unable to give the date. It is now owned by John Johnson's daughter, Hilda "Johnson" "Valli" Bystrom.

We are not able at this time to state definitely who first owned the N.E. ¼. However, it has passed through the hands of the Willoughbys', the Robertsons, and the Staniforths. Now owned by Stanley Cressy.

Section 35-T37-R2.

This section being CPR land. The south half of the above section was purchased by J. S. (Jack) Fitch about 1901. The S.W. ¼ is now owned by Mrs. L. M. Fitch. The S.E. is divided. 120 acres on the south being held by Jake Heth. 36 acres by Gordon Fitch. The remaining four acres are the property on which the Centerville School was located and now belongs to the Centerville Community Club.

The N.E. ¼ was bought by Dick Higginson in the fall of 1915. Incidentally Dick had rented the N.W. ¼ from P. B. Fitch in the spring and was living there with his wife, one son "Ivan" and his Father and Sister. The Higginsons stayed in the district for four years, then left and settled near Sexsmith in the Peace River area. The above quarter was taken over by "Jack" Fitch and is now owned by a grandson, Gordon Fitch.

The N.W. ¼ was bought by members of the Fitch family about 1902 but passed into the ownership of P. B. Fitch about 1905. Paul left for Nebraska in 1915 and various ones rented the land until 1920 when "Jack" Fitch bought it. Gordon Fitch is the present owner.

Section 1-T38-R2.

Another CPR holding. We understand this section was bought early in the century by a woman but for some unknown reason, reverted to the company. About 1910, O. G. "Ben" Shears from Council, Idaho made a small payment on the east half and with some assistance from Jack Fitch and Fred Lund of Red Deer, managed to hang on until the family moved up in 1916. There were three sons living at home: Claude, Harry and Carlos, also others came up, namely: Owen, Bill and Ira. These last two were married. The Shears lived for a time on the O. D. Fitch homestead while clearing and bringing their own property under cultivation. Earl B. Fitch bought this half section in 1921 and the Shears returned to Idaho. G. Earl Fitch is the present owner. The west half of the section was bought probably about 1916 by G.S. and J. C. Grimson. They owned this land until Grimur's death after which his son Earl B. Grimson took it over. In 1974 it was sold to the present owner, D. A. Bell.

Section 3-T38-R2-W5.

The N.E. ¼ of this section was bought about 1902 by Horton Wilcox who had homesteaded the land adjoining it on the east.

The S.E. ¼ was bought about 1907 by Miss Laird, a sister of Mrs. Walker who had just acquired the Bill Otto place. Miss Laird lived with her widowed mother in the little town of Evarts. We believe this arrangement continued until the elderly woman passed away, after which Miss Laird married Bob Lawrence, a widower with several children. The land was bought in 1916 by E. B. Fitch and is still held by descendants.

The west half of the section was bought also about 1907 by an Englishman whose name was "Ward". This fellow proceeded to hire several carpenters and construct the biggest house ever built in the district either before or since. It was a bungalow style 60 x 80 feet with two large leans on one side and a long porch on the other. He returned to England for more money and a wife and was not heard from again. Later John Johnson bought the property. The house was dismantled and the material used to build a large horsebarn. The land is now owned by Mr. Johnson's daughter, Hilda Bystrom.

Section 11-T38-R2-W5.

This land was one of the sections which the government had reserved for school purposes. Land so reserved being Section 11 and 29 in each township. From time to time this land was advertised and sold at public auction and the money received used to support education. According to our best recollection, Section 11 was sold just previous to 1920.

The N.W. ¼ was bought by the Kouras family who lived on the quarter just north. A. P. Robinson, a returned man, bought this land after the second war where he and his wife raised their family. They still own the property.

The N.E. and the S.W. quarters were bought by Mike Berthusen, he still owns this land.

The S.E. ¼ was bought by Mike's sister Miss Berthusen. She was a school teacher and later married Andrew Doran. This land is presently owned by the Staudingers.

The S.E. ¼ of Sec. 31-T37-R1 was bought by C. P. Anderson, probably just previous to the first war. The land remained in the hands of the family until being sold to B. G. Bell. At present belonging to D. A. Bell with the exception of 20 acres of the N.E. corner which now belongs to Edna Bergstrom.

The N.E. ¼ was bought about 1916 by Carl Forss of Burnt Lake. The land was later taken over by Eric Bergstrom who married Carl's daughter, Ada. The land now belongs to Eric's widow, Ada.

The S.W. ¼ was bought about 1915 by Bert Forss, a son of Carl Forss and brother of Ada. Bert sold this land to D. A. Bell in 1956 with the exception of ten acres of the N.W. corner. He had built a new house here previously where he lived until his death. He took a keen interest in gardening and production of hardy fruits. The acreage is now owned by his brother and sister, Bill Forss and Ada Bergstrom.

The N.W. ¼ was bought about 1915 by Elof Holmgren. Elof and his wife Maggie, and two sons, Rolf and Tord lived here where the boys attended the local school. As well as operating the home quarter and the N.E. of Section 36-T37-R2, which he bought in 1929, Elof worked as foreman for the local Municipal District for many years.

Elof died in 1944 and Maggie lived for a time at Sylvan Lake later moving to B.C. where she died.

The oldest son, Rolf, married Selma Hilman and they took over the farm which was later sold to Ivan Holland, the present owner. Tord moved to Portland about 1942. He is now deceased.

Section 25-T37-R2-W5.

This being CPR land, the N.E. ¼ was bought by William Dickson probably about 1902 or 1903. After his death in the early 1930's the estate was sold to Ed Wadson of Red Deer. This quarter was later bought by the late B. J. Bystrom, now owned by his son H. S. Bystrom.

The S.E. ¼ was also bought from the C.P.R. previous to 1905. While we are not definite as to the first owner we do know that as early as 1912 it was owned by John S. "Jack" Fitch. Present owner, Gus Mannerfeldt.

Gus and his wife, the former Olga Selstrom of Burnt Lake, took up residence on the Fanson place in 1933, later moving to the O. D. Fitch homestead. At a later date he purchased the S.E. of Section 25-T37-R2, which he still owns. Olga is deceased.

The west half of the section was first bought by Bert and Marvin Thompson of Markerville early in the first war, but was later reclaimed by the CPR. The S.W. ¼ was resold to Peter Johanson who married Regina Olson. In 1932 again resold to Ed. Krause, now owned by David Krause.

The N.W. ¼ was taken by Philip Holland in 1931. Still in possession of the family.

We will now deal briefly with items concerning the organization of the school and related activities.

As previously stated, the local school was started in the spring of 1903. When the country started to settle, the need of education was quickly recognized and the residents met together to consider means whereby a school could be built.

Most of the schools throughout the country were built with government assistance. Not so with Centerville. Jack Fitch donated two acres of land on the N.E. corner of the S.E. ¼ of 35-37-2. The rough material and labour was given by the various homesteaders. Right here it may be in order to state that each settler on the homestead was given the right to cut enough logs on government land to make 6,000 board feet of lumber. A part of this went into the old schoolhouse. John Olson, who homesteaded the S.W. ¼ of 22-37-2 was carpenter in chief and Hubert J. and Clarence H. Fitch painted the building blue with red trim.

Classes were started the summer of 1903 with Miss Brown as the first teacher. Miss Brown taught her second year at Evarts where she met and married Jack Killick, well known merchant at Rocky Mountain House for years.

The old school building served not only for class work, but as a Sunday School, Church, and social meeting place throughout the years, being replaced by a new building in 1944.

The spiritual need of the community was also early recognized.

Church services were started by Reverend McLennan, also the Reverend Dr. Wood who later founded the Woods' Orphan Home in Calgary. Reverend G. W. McKechnie also held services for at least two summers. Sunday School was held almost continually from the beginning until about 1967. This was carried on by various ones including the school teachers, R. E. Robinson, Thomas Thompson, and later by F. M. Hodges. Bob, as Mr. Hodges was known, lived on the N.W. ¼ of 6-38-1 (now owned by Duke Bell) and was a faithful promoter of Sunday School and church work.

It would not be possible for the present generation to visualize the hardships which the pioneers faced. The homes were far from wind and frost proof and the wood fires took continual tending. Water was not on tap and in many cases even the wells were not near the houses. Water was hauled in wooden barrels and in winter they were soon loaded with ice. The flies in summer were everywhere and the bedbugs, which no woman admitted having, were always in evidence. Roads were one continual mudhole in summer and snowbound in winter. Markets, at first, were nonexistent, but about 1904 a government creamery was opened at Evarts and later a cheese factory at Burnt Lake by T. B. Miller. This brought some monetary returns to the community and a measure of independence to the settlers. Two things which helped were a good supply of wild fruit most years and wild prairie chickens by the thousands.

The Centerville district was some twenty miles west of Red Deer, which town served as the Post Office for the Fitch families until about 1904. As may be imagined, anyone going to Red Deer was expected to serve as mail

carrier for the neighbourhood. Often a wagon returning would be loaded with supplies for a number of neighbours. This service was willingly given and thankfully received.

As previously mentioned, the roads left much to be desired, the trip in often taking from six to nine hours one way. Feed barns in Red Deer were operated where the traveller could leave his team while buying the needed supplies. On occasion, because of road conditions, it became necessary to spend the night in town. This presented a real problem to those who lacked the money to pay for hotel accommodations. When this happened, the Barn Boss could often be counted on to share his bed with an unfortunate one. We must here make note of the fact that the Barn Boss had a little office in the barn where he had a wood heater and bunk in which he slept, in most cases fully clothed. This office served as a gathering place where yarns were swapped and tobacco juice squirted in the general direction of the makeshift cuspidor (an old pail half full of ashes). A filthy hideout by every meaning of the word, but a port in time of storm which, because of necessity many resorted to.

The early roads were built chiefly by donated labor, although small grants from the government were given towards construction of roads connecting the little towns which sprung up throughout the country. The first so called roads did not follow section lines but were trails through the bush skirting the muskegs, winding in and out along the firmer ground, often doing little more than connecting the homesteads, but eventually ending in town.

Regarding the social life, we can truthfully say that though the settlers comprised different nationalities and came from different walks of life, all were regarded as equals. The "Good Samaritan" spirit prevailed. Neighbours often spent evenings and Sunday afternoons visiting together. Sad to say, with the passing of our rural school, the unity of the early years has faded to some extent.

One of the high days in early years was the annual Christmas entertainment held at the school where the children performed to the delight of their proud parents. The pupils came in their Sunday best which, while often shabby by present day standards, were nonetheless spotless and the children were full of enthusiasm. Probably no one was more excited than the teacher hoping that all would go smoothly. When the program was over, sleigh bells would be heard outside and the "jolly old man in whiskers" would appear amid the cheers and shrieks of the children, after which lunch would be served and the party broke up, each family tucking themselves under blankets in their sleighs going to their individual homes.

Another social gathering which should be mentioned was what was known as a box social. The ladies, young and old, would come with a lunch basket artistically decorated. These boxes took many shapes from shoes to hats and were very often beautiful to the extreme. A man was chosen to auction the boxes to the highest bidder. Sometimes a dashing young swain would be compelled to gamble a whole month's wages for the privilege of having supper with the girl of his choice. Funds raised in this manner were generally used to purchase an organ or piano for the school. In later years, that is, during the

First World War, money gathered in this way was often given to the Red Cross or Patriotic Fund.

Sports days were held on May 24 and July 1 at Evarts and Markerville. These gatherings were attended by one and all. Booths were erected where treats were sold to those who had the cash and the desire. Firecrackers were the hearts desire of every boy. Athletic contests were held which included running, jumping, shot put, etc., as well as horse races, ball games and sometimes bronco busting. Those from individual districts often shared a picnic lunch and on these occasions each good housewife did her best to out-do the others by providing some special treat. However, this rivalry was always in good sport and accepted as such. Happiness was the rule of the day.

The years have seen many changes. The bush lands have become broad fields. The old homestead shacks have mostly given way to modern dwellings. The mud trails have been replaced with gravel and paved roads open to travel throughout the entire year. Our homes are served with telephone and hydro and gas. The little school house no longer serves as the seat of education. School busses whisk the children away to large central schools. The horse, which was a must sixty years ago, has almost disappeared, being replaced with modern high powered machinery, trucks, tractors, and automobiles. Medicare and hospitalization have replaced the home nurse and midwife.

Living amid the modern conveniences and comparative ease and wealth of the present day has its reward. Most of us would hesitate to go back over the hard years of the pioneer. They were years which tried the strongest hearts. The early settlers have all but disappeared from the scene, sleeping here in the land of their adoption.

The present generation cannot possibly understand the hardship of their forefathers nor could we wish it upon them. However, those of us who are old enough to have had a glimpse of the pioneer days cannot help but feel the youth of today are missing something which has helped to make this land what it is today. Sometimes we are tempted to shed a tear for those who laid the foundation of this community and for bygone days and the memories dear to us.

CENTERVILLE SCHOOL HISTORY — Written by George Fitch

Early in the present century when immigrants with families began to settle in the area some twenty miles west of Red Deer, the need of education was quickly recognized. Late in 1902, thought was given whereby a school district could be organized and a suitable building constructed. However, actual work was not commenced until February 11, 1903.

We should possibly mention here that when the country was surveyed, two sections in each township were reserved for school purposes. Those reserved were sections 11 and 29. Schools were supposed to be built on these sections and districts laid out accordingly. However, in this area because of lakes, rivers, muskegs and other natural barriers, it was not possible to follow this plan. As a result we find most schools were built on other locations. Incidentally the school sections were sold from time to time and the monies so received were used

by the Department of Education for educational purposes.

Early in 1903, the homesteaders met and three men were chosen to act as a Board of Trustees. William Dixon served as secretary-treasurer for a period of six years. John Surdam Fitch served as chairman of the Board. The third member was probably R. J. Fanson or Oscar Norby. These three constituted the first Board of Trustees.

Plans were formulated at this general meeting to include land within the district boundary, this took in all land left between the districts of Swan (Burnt) Lake, Hola and Kuusamo which had already been organized, it was agreed that the area so bounded be named Centerville. The government O.K.'d the petition and the district was known as Centerville No. 791.

The land for the school consisted of two acres on the northeast corner of the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of 35, T. 37, R. 2, W.5. This was the exact center of the original district boundary. The property was by deed of gift from J. S. Fitch, although actual title deed was not registered until about 1926 or 1927, this through the efforts of the late N. E. Bergstrom who was acting as secretary-treasurer at the time.

As previously mentioned, construction was commenced in the early spring of 1903. John Olson, who homesteaded the SW of 22-37-2, was carpenter in chief and C. H. and H. J. Fitch painted the building, the color being blue with red trim. It must be noted the work was all donation labor. The material used was also given by the various settlers.

In connection with building materials, we must explain that when a person filed on a homestead, he was granted a permit to cut enough logs on crown land to make 6,000 board feet of lumber. This lumber was to be used to construct farm buildings and was known as "Patent Lumber" by the pioneers.

The building measured eighteen by thirty feet. No foundation was laid at the time, neither was it lined up or sealed inside. A sheet iron stove served for heating and needless to say was very inadequate. Double desks were provided and the blackboard consisted of one inch by four inch boards painted black.

It is of interest to note that the school served not only as the seat of learning but also for social gatherings, Sunday School, church, and political meetings.

As mentioned previously, construction was started in the spring of 1903 and classes were carried on throughout the summer months. Miss Brown was the first teacher. The following year she taught the Evarts school where she met and married Jack Killick who operated a general store there at the time. He later carried on in the same business at Rocky Mountain House for many years.

We are unable to say what the teacher's salary was the first years, but Miss Braton, who taught the summer of 1907, received the magnificent sum of \$45.00 per month.

Pupils who attended school the first year were as follows: Emmet and Eugene Quinn; Aura, Jennie and Lewis Fitch; Herbert Fanson; Fonsi, Frank and Chris Sigurdson; Eric and Lily Bergstrom; Annie and Emil Schill; Lily Sigurdson, as per picture.

October 16, 1937, Centerville became a part of the Rocky Mountain enlarged School Division. Previous to this we had operated for as little as $5\frac{1}{2}$ mills, after which



School picture of 1904. Ethel Drennen, Gene Quinn, Jennie Fitch, Fay Fitch, Lily Sigurdson, Aura Fitch, Fonsi Sigurdson, Chris Sigurdson, Emmet Quinn, Frank Sigurdson.

taxes were jumped to 10 mills, increasing until the year previous to being transferred to the Red Deer School Division the tax was as high as $42\frac{1}{2}$ mills.

During the summer of 1944, a new school building was constructed on the original grounds and the old building moved off to serve as a Sunday School and church.

During one of these years, while at play two children had rather a serious collision. The incident was mentioned in the news item of the Red Deer Advocate under the title of "Two Heads Cracked at Centerville".

Centerville was transferred to Red Deer School Division, December 30, 1954.

In conclusion, we must explain the Centerville School building and grounds now belong to the local Community Club and are used for social gatherings in an effort to maintain a measure of the community spirit which was so much a part of life in the days of those who pioneered this wilderness and made it the prosperous area it is now.

INSPECTORS

The Inspector of Schools during the first number of years was J. F. Boyce. In those days many of the roads were only trails through the bush and transportation was by horse and buggy only. Inspector Boyce would leave Red Deer in the early morning and be at a rural school by nine o'clock sharp. He would stay until near noon, then leave and be at another school by one. In this way he inspected two schools per day and never failed to make two visits each school year. In later years, Centerville was served by Inspectors Stickle; A. R. Gibson; Lindsay Thurber; Findley Barnes; Read; Linstedt; and R. V. McCullough.

NEWS ABOUT TEACHERS OF CENTERVILLE

Miss Mina Braton taught the summer of 1907 for a salary of \$45.00 per month. She boarded with her mother at Evarts and came on horseback each morning, a distance of nearly seven miles.

Miss Galbraith took the school in September of 1908 and continued until June of 1909. We note here that from this time on the school year was observed in keeping with the present system in use.

Miss Carruthers began in September 1912, but only stayed two weeks. She was not used to country life especially in the bush country and was afraid of both the dark and the daylight.

Miss A. G. Crowe took charge later in September of 1912, agreeing to stay until Christmas as she was to be married at that time. Miss Crowe was an accomplished musician and gifted singer. During the time she was here, a Mr. Babcock who represented the Waterman-Waterbury heating systems, held a public meeting in the school. The residents were out in full force to hear his lecture on air and enjoy his many songs accompanied by Miss Crowe. Needless to say, all favored the new heating setup which was installed during Christmas week. This furnace gave many years of satisfactory service.

Mr. Walter Northey was much interested in baseball, being a fair pitcher and played on the Markerville team. A few years later, he married Ruby Johnston, a Markerville girl.

Miss McIlmoyle's great pride was being of United Empire Loyalist stock.

In 1915-1916, Mr. J. C. Grimson and Mr. George Wade had just completed their high school and were required to spend four months each at Normal School to qualify for teacher certificates. They arranged with the local trustees to share the full school year.

Miss Delia Fitch, a local girl, taught on a permit and attended the Camrose Normal School the following year.

Miss Donnie Moore, a local girl, taught from June, 1935-September, 1937. During the hard times through the past several years the school district had become somewhat financially embarrassed and to help out, Donnie agreed to teach far below the minimum salary provided by statute.

Mrs. Evelyn Johansson, a local resident, began in September of 1955 and continued until Centerville became a part of the Centralized School system and the children were taken by bus to Sylvan Lake. Ironically, our Centerville children were taken to Sylvan Lake and the bus returned with a load of Sylvan Lake children to Centerville. Mr. Norman Bowles conducted this grade six class at Centerville for one year, after which our local school ceased to be as such.

Teachers at Centerville: Miss Brown — 1903; Miss Ethel Drennen — 1904, Miss McWhinnie — 1905, Mr. McKenzie — 1906, Miss Mina Braton — 1907, Miss Galbraith — 1908-1909, Miss Kate Patterson (2 years), Miss Laura E. Symonds, Miss Carruthers (2 weeks), Miss A. G. Crowe, Miss Daphne Garrison, Mr. Walter Northey, Miss McIlmoyle, Mr. J. C. Grimson 1915-1916, Mr. Geo. Wade 1915-1916, Miss Jean Beatty, Miss Helene Rogers (Eckville), Miss Delia Fitch, Miss Hannah Christianson (Markerville), Miss Robe, Miss Bessie Code (1922), Miss Delia Fitch (1923-1928), Miss Cora Elliott, Miss Bertha Bishop, Mrs. Grace Milne Hawkins (3 years), Mr. Bert Cody (1933-1935), Miss Donnie Moore, Mr. Walden Miller (Innisfail), Mrs. Reid, Eugene Walters, Miss Mary Dolphin, Miss Dorcas Boote (3 years), Mrs. Delia Fitch Bystrom, (1945-1950),

Miss Doris McKee (1950-1954), Mrs. Edith Flater, Mrs. Evelyn Johansson.

THE EARLY DAYS — as told by Delia Bystrom

In the early 1900's when the settlers arrived in this area the land had been surveyed at a mile and two mile intervals. Sections were marked at the N.E. corner with four, two foot square holes, with an iron peg driven deep into the center. There were no fences at first, which would define the land owned by one particular owner. Instead, the settler put up a snake fence corral, around a small field to confine the milk cows at night. During the day, the cows roamed where they liked, but usually came home at milking time. If rain continued for several days, the cows often found shelter in a willow bluff. Locating the herd was made easier by the common practice of hanging a cowbell around several cows' necks. Milking cows was the only source of income until land could be cleared and wheat seeded. The milk was strained into large shallow pans and kept on shelves in the cellar, or an outdoor building, where it could be kept cool, then the cream skimmed. In the winter, cream was churned in a large barrel churn, and the butter was traded at Evarts general store for groceries. Jack Robinson, the merchant, always gave the children chewing gum or candy canes.

Later, cream separators came on the market. The first I remember was a Mellott. Such a machine! It wobbled and banged until the house shook. In summer, Grandfather, known as O. D. Fitch, had a cream route. With spanking black drivers, and a light lumber wagon, he called at all the homes, and each homemaker poured her cream into large cans. The children were fascinated as they watched O. D. take samples for testing the butter-fat content. O. D. then took the cream to Evarts where Mr. Miller made it into butter. Later, he moved to Kuusamo where he established a cheese factory, so it was back to butter making again. A Mr. Shouten then came once a week with a team and wagon, and bought butter, eggs, vegetables, etc. and took these to Nordegg to sell.

In the very early days from 1900-1910 there were no established roads. We travelled the trails around the many muskegs and ponds, through beautiful wooded trails. In summer the children delighted in the myriads of colorful flowers — tiger lilies, roses, lady slippers, wild columbine, shooting stars, homeysuckle, and crocuses. Bluebirds and meadowlarks, which we seldom see today, were a very common sight in the earlier days.

The "Younguns" as we were usually called, often went in the lumber wagon with our father on short community trips and sat on a wide board at the front of the wagon box. The more affluent farmers had a spring seat.

Dozens of garter snakes could be seen lying in the sun. Winter was always an exciting time for children. Friendly bush rabbits were everywhere, following each other over well travelled paths. Snow flies took much of our attention as we walked home from school. On a bright day in early spring, or during a chinook, these minute creatures seemed to come from nowhere but made patches of snow black. The next day they had completely disappeared. There were many ruffed grouse in the early days. The settlers called them "partridges" and on frosty mornings a dozen or more prairie chickens could be seen in the high poplars near the buildings. Much of our meat supply came from these wild fowl.



Sunday School picnic about 1938.

Probably there was a law and a season for shooting game but it was willingly or ignorantly ignored. Another source of food came from the quarts of wild fruit which was gathered each summer. Raspberries were not too plentiful but they were fun to pick because there were many beautiful spiders in the raspberry patch. Saskatoons, chokecherries and hazel nuts all grew on the same poplar bluff. They were easy to pick and soon filled a pail. Blueberries were quite another thing. It took many weary hours spent on one's knees to fill the hundred sealers which were required for the winter. Sometimes Mother packed a lunch of fried chicken and salad, and with a baby in the baby buggy walked a mile to the berry patch: Our dessert would be crushed blueberries with lots of sugar and angel food cake. Yum, yum! When the children had filled their pails, they were allowed to play. What fun it was to bend over a sapling and bounce up and down. If Father were with us, he would sometimes take time to "hunker down" and with his knife and a small smooth poplar, proceed to make each one of us a whistle. These whistles were even more shrill than a store whistle.

When the school was built Centerville became a Presbyterian field. The first minister to hold services was Mr. Wood, who later founded the Wood's Orphan Home for boys in Calgary. Mrs. Wilcox (Auntie) was an ardent Presbyterian. Although Mr. Wilcox (Uncle Horton) was an atheist, the two never missed a service. Uncle slept until it was time to go. After the service they visited friends and as Uncle said "Maybe we'll get supper". Auntie was the world's poorest cook but the kindest woman and children loved to visit her. When their house burned down about 1905 they lived with us until the neighbors helped construct a new one.

HISTORY OF THE CENTERVILLE COMMUNITY CLUB — written by Ivan Holland

The first school in the district was built in 1903. However, it was felt that a community club should be formed to help unite the efforts of the district in many projects. The original Centerville district was much larger than it is today, and many more families were involved in its affairs.

In 1920, the Centerville Community Club was formed with the teacher and willing members of the community working in conjunction with the school board. Meetings were held frequently in different homes. There were no membership fees or constitution, but it was hoped many families would be interested enough to keep the club active. The teacher was the central figure in the community, and there were several who were instrumental in the formation of the club. Two teachers, Miss Robe and Miss Code, contributed greatly towards the club, and were perhaps the ones who actually got the club started. Another was Delia Bystrom (nee Fitch) who was the teacher in Centerville in 1923.

Although the club was actually formed and operating in 1920, the first official election of officers was held in 1923. Hubert Fitch, great-uncle of Delia, George, Guy and Russell Fitch, took a great interest in the club, and was looked upon as an advisor, and provided a steady influence to the young club, as well as providing some financial assistance.

The first club project was a box social and program to raise money to put a hardwood floor in the school house. The floor was laid by Elof Holmgren and Bert Fors. This proved to be a difficult job, because the old floor had

worn down leaving the knots sticking up. These had to be planed off before the new floor could be put down.

The annual picnic at the end of the school term became the responsibility of the Community Club. The picnic always commenced with a dinner, followed by an afternoon of sports events, climaxed by a ball game, with special treats of homemade ice cream and lemonade being served throughout the afternoon. These picnics were one of the highlights of the year, and people came from miles around by horse drawn buggy or wagon.

The annual picnic and Christmas concert were always sponsored in close cooperation with the teacher. The club supplying the finances both for candy bags and other treats at Christmas, and the expenses of the picnic. These two events have been held annually to the present date.

When it became necessary to raise money for special projects, the Club held various functions, such as box socials, pie socials, strawberry socials, or presented skits, plays and programs in order to raise funds.

In the late 1930's the club built a skating rink on the farm of Bernard and Delia Bystrom. Many will remember learning to skate on that rink.

Another club project has been the parties held for young men of the district who have married. It provided an opportunity to wish the young couple well, and present them with a gift.

When the school system was centralized, it left the country school houses vacant and of little further use. The Community Club undertook the purchase of the Centerville school and grounds from the School Division for the sum of \$400.00. Money was raised by selling shares of \$15.00 per share to community members. A work bee was organized to clear the grounds of bush, break it and seed it to grass to provide a ball field and picnic ground. The school house and grounds have been used since that time as a community center. Power was installed doing away with the old gas lamps.

The club was incorporated and registered in October of 1959.

When the Alberta Government made the Centennial grants available to community organizations, for 1967, the club took advantage of the program to make various improvements to the buildings and grounds.

A centennial committee was formed in 1967 consisting of Guy Fitch, Mary Moore, Anne Bystrom, Carol Holland, and Ivan Holland. A special function was held each month of that year, with the highlight being a Homecoming Picnic held in July, with people coming from many points in North America.

A gas furnace was installed in 1976, replacing the old wood and coal furnace that had been in use since the school was built in 1945.

The Centerville Community Club has no doubt contributed greatly to keeping the community spirit in the district alive and well.

CENTERVILLE WOMEN'S CLUB

In 1924 the Club was organized as a Presbyterian Ladies Aid. In the late thirties, the name was changed to the Centerville Women's Club. The first officers were Mrs. Grace Moore, Mrs. Linda Moore and Mrs. Ivy Hodges. The membership fee was 15¢ and tea money 5¢. Even today the membership fee is only 25¢ a year and tea money 10¢ a month.

Money was raised by chicken suppers with all the trimmings. The charge was 35¢ per person. Later it was suggested to charge 50¢ but many said that would be too much and people couldn't afford to go so it was left at 35¢. These suppers were held in the larger homes in the district. We also had rummage sales, bazaars and quilt raffles. One quilt in particular we made from blocks and anyone who wanted their name embroidered on these blocks paid 10¢ for each name. This quilt was raffled and won by Mr. Clarken.

At that time we used our money to help several causes: donations to the British and Foreign Bible Society, helping the Sunday School pay for ministers and student ministers, giving fruit to the sick, paying children for gopher tails, and buying curtains and ball equipment for the school.

During the depression we were all poor in money but we were rich in the things that count for real happiness. Happiness in being neighborly — visiting together, meeting together, worshipping together, working together, picnicking together, playing together, laughing together and weeping together. There wasn't the rush that we feel today. We had time to visit our neighbor then — at least our closest neighbor. Now we generally see each other only at the meetings.

The Women's Club has always been responsible for appointing a news correspondent for the "Red Deer Advocate" and the "Sylvan Lake News". The following have acted in this capacity through the years: the late Mrs. Arthur Moore, the late Selma Holmgren, Laura Fitch, Mrs. B. Bell, Pauline Bell now Mrs. Pasek, the late Vivian Bell, Lillian Holland, Alice Heth, and at the present time Jean Matthews.

In the forties, we catered to several auction sales. At one sale we sold three sandwiches and one doughnut with coffee for 25¢. At another sale we served 2 buns and wieners and one doughnut for 25¢; pie and coffee for 15¢, and pie alone for 10¢. At still another sale we charged only \$10.00 to serve everyone.

In 1951 the four clubs of Marianne, Evarts, Happy Hill and Centerville decided to give a \$25.00 scholarship to the student within these districts with the highest marks in the grade nine Departmental Examinations. In 1958 when Marianne dropped out, the Craig Club took their place. This was carried on for 20 years. It was dropped because it no longer seemed possible to judge fairly after the grade nine Departmental Exams were discontinued.



Visit to Bethany.

The scholarship winners from Centerville were Vera Hinds in 1951, Betty Ann Mannerfeldt in 1952, Gordon Walter in 1960, Angeline Fitch in 1963, Norman Walter in 1967, Judith Bergstrom in 1968, and Janet Bystrom in 1969.

In April, 1962, we decided to adopt a foster child. We didn't know if we could handle it by ourselves so we contacted Marianne Ladies Club. They joined with us in the project — each paying half. Our first child was Wong, Siu Ngor, a 10-year-old girl from Hong Kong. The second child was Jim Sue Ling, a girl also from Hong Kong and the third was Ritha Pierre from Haiti. At present we are sponsoring Herminio Garcia Lopez, a boy from Guatemala. In 1970 Marianne dropped out and the Burnt Lake W.I. joined us in this project.

In October, 1956, we had our first turkey supper in the Community Center. It has been a successful annual event ever since.

In January, 1964, we decided to start work on a cook book of favorite recipes. It turned out to be an excellent money-making project, but how anything that started out so simple could get to be so complicated! However, now we are glad we made the effort. In 1965 we had 300 books printed and another 300 in 1966. These all sold very quickly and the books are still in demand.

Our special project for Centennial Year was a farm gate sign at each home. Each resident paid \$2.50 and the club paid the balance.

During the years we have donated to various charitable organizations and have been responsible for the Red Cross and Cancer Society collecting for the District. We have also helped furnish the Community Center with tables, chairs, dishes, cutlery and coffee urns.

On June 5, 1974, we held a banquet and program in the Community Center to celebrate our fiftieth anniversary. There were 47 members and guests present. Guests came from White Rock, B.C., Calgary, Stoney Plain, Rocky Mountain House, Olds, Spruceview, Innisfail, Stauffer, Red Deer and Sylvan Lake. The following



Club members.

song, reminding us of the Depression in the thirties, was sung at the program.

'Leven-cent cattle, nineteen-cent wheat
How in the world can a poor man eat?
Pray for the sunshine, then it will rain
Things getting worse driving all insane.
Eggs are four cents, that's very cheap
Isn't that enough to make you weep
No use talkin', any man's beat
With 'leven-cent cattle and nineteen-cent wheat.

'Leven-cent cattle, a carload of tax
The load's too heavy for our poor backs.
We got a set of farmers, we all know well
But there's something wrong we sure can tell.
We all work hard, we groan and sweat
Now we're plum ruined and a blowed up set;
No use talkin', any man's beat
With 'leven-cent cattle and nineteen-cent wheat.

'Leven-cent cattle, ten-dollar pants
Who in the world has got a chance?
We can't buy clothes, wheat is so low
How in the world can we raise the dough?
Can't help each other, what shall we do?
I can't solve the problem so it's up to you.
'Leven-cent cattle, forty-cent hose
Guess we will have to do without clothes.

Written by Ada Bergstrom, Alice Heth and Madge Fitch

TELEPHONE SERVICE IN THE AREA — by George Fitch

Telephone service first began in Red Deer in 1902 when John T. Moore organized the Western General Electric Co. The above company built a telephone line from Red Deer west along the trail to the village of Burnt Lake, and continued on to Evarts. This line, we believe was started in 1906 and completed in 1907. Toll service was given at these two villages and at least one farm residence that we recall, this being at Eric Johansons at the meridian corner east of Burnt Lake.

The Alberta Government Telephone Co. hired their first employee in September, 1906 and took over the Bell Telephone Co. in Alberta during 1908. Red Deer, however, continued to be privately operated until taken over by the A.G.T. in 1920.

In 1922 the A.G.T. gave service to a number of subscribers in Shady Nook and the south-east corner of



The Big Five.

Burnt Lake. During the depression this was discontinued. However the service was again put into operation by a Mutual Company several years later and continued until sold out to the A.G.T.

In 1915 the A.G.T. opened a Rural exchange at Markerville. This service went as far north as the "Smith Bros. Island Ranch" which was located in the Evarts district, two miles south of the village. We have on hand a copy of the Markerville listing showing 37 subscribers in 1915. At a later date the Evarts district was given service by a Mutual Company.

In late 1915 telephone poles were distributed north from Markerville to the south boundary of Centerville but as the war continued, the line was never built.

The Centerville Telephone Co. was organized in 1916. This was a Mutual Company which served much of the rural area in Centerville and Burnt Lake until taken over by the A.G.T. in 1970. At this time the A.G.T. assumed the liabilities of the Mutual and allowed the shareholders to retain the pole line. This was dismantled and sold at public auctions. The funds received were divided among the shareholders and was in excess of \$100.00 each.

We will now give an account of the organization of the Centerville Telephone Co. and make a brief report of service given during the 55 years of operation.

In the early months of 1916 three residents of the Centerville district began talking about a farmers telephone line. Probably Thomas Thompson got the talk started since he came to the district in the spring of 1914 from Nebraska where they had a line similar to what was constructed here. This talk got J. S. Fitch and a few others interested and things began to take shape.

Those interested ordered several Stromberg-Carlson telephone instruments and the very first line was nothing more than the top wire on the barbwire fence. Believe it or not it really worked. However within a few weeks a single telephone wire was strung and run to Sylvan Lake where connection was made with the A.G.T. system. This Mutual operated with a single wire on what was known as the ground system. The first four years this wire was held up by an extension nailed to fence posts several rods apart. The last three miles into Sylvan Lake were carried on the Government-Line.

At this time the A.G.T. gave service at Sylvan Lake the Mutual agreed to pay 25¢ per month connection fee for each subscriber. Each subscriber was responsible for his long distance toll charge. The rural company was also charged 15¢ per pole for each wire carried by the A.G.T. line. In July 1940 the Centerville Mutual purchased the three miles of A.G.T. line from Sylvan Lake south.

In 1920 the Mutual rebuilt the whole system using 20 foot poles. At this time since there were more than twenty subscribers it was found necessary to divide the line for better reception. We must admit the company had its ups and downs through the years that followed. The line was often in a bad state of repair. Each shareholder was expected to keep his part of the line in repair and the brush cleared out. Some were more careless than others so very often reception was poor.

However, we must admit for the most part we got rather a lot for the little it cost. Each subscriber was expected to pay his long distance toll charge and \$2.00 per

year to the company expense fund during the first 20 years of operations.

With the passing of years since the poles which had been set in 1920 needed to be replaced it was decided in 1954 to begin a plan of reconstruction. Motion passed at the annual meeting of 1954 called for rebuilding four miles each year beginning at the outer end of the line. The work of replacing new poles was completed in 1960.

At the March meeting of 1961 thought was given to borrowing money from the Rural Telephone Revolving Fund to prepare the line for the metallic system and fully Automatic service. This motion was carried out and \$6,000.00 were borrowed in 1962. The work of construction was let to McGregor Telephone and Power Co.

As previously mentioned the Centerville Mutual sold out to the A.G.T. in 1970. So ended that which was a dream come true 60 years ago.

We must here make mention of the Marrienne Telephone Company. We believe this Co. took shape about 1917 but for some reason became inactive for several years. However this group took on new life and became quite active, rebuilding the outer end of their line. They made an agreement with the Centerville Telephone Co. to use their pole line for the last five miles into Sylvan Lake for a charge of 15¢ per pole. This was in 1963.

The Marrienne Co. also sold out to the A.G.T. in 1970 by an agreement similar to that of the Centerville Mutual. Both companies now enjoy Automatic service and free dialing to Red Deer.

THE C. P. ANDERSON FAMILY — by Carrie Nicholson

In the year of 1883, my Dad left Sweden for U.S.A., went to Minnesota and worked there for nearly three years for a farmer for \$1.10 a day. There he met a Swede who happened to know Caroline Anderson in Sweden. She had a store. Dad started to write to her although they had never known each other before. They exchanged snapshots and after a week or so, Dad went back to Sweden, and there they met for the first time. Mother had the grocery-store when he first came to see her, and **WHAT DO YOU KNOW THEY GOT MARRIED!** So I guess it was love at first sight.

Carl Peter and Caroline Anderson came from Sweden with their three children: **Charlie, Stone** and **Carrie** in July 1903. Two daughters and one son had passed away in Sweden. When we arrived in Red Deer, there was not too much to see. Red Deer had one grocery store, a bank and wooden sidewalks.

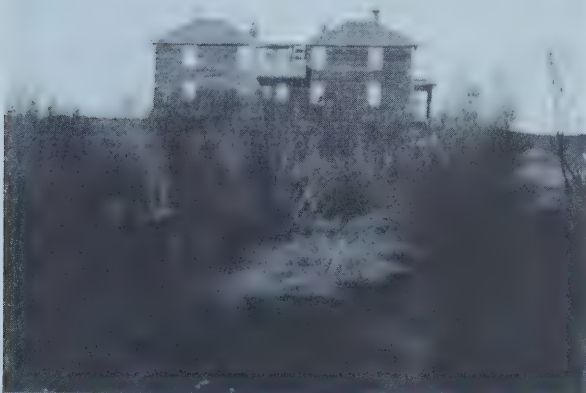
My father bought a quarter section of land five miles south of Sylvan Lake. There were scores of Indians around in those days, and also lots of hard work, with such things as clearing the land and building a home in the wilderness. Mother and I wove our own rugs.

Mother had not wanted to come to Canada, but Dad wanted to come, so mother had to give in and come along.

Soon after we got partly settled, my Dad bought some cows, a team of horses and some machinery. We paid a big price for the team, as horses were the big thing in those early days. The next week after he bought them, one of the horses died of swampfever. This fever claimed a lot of horses in the early days.



Family and friends on the veranda of the C. P. Anderson home.



A view of the C. P. Anderson home.

After a few weeks, Dad said to mother "Let's sell and go back to Sweden". Mother answered him and said "You were the one that wanted to come to Canada, so now you stay". It was hard lots of times, but we made it quite well, although it was quite different from being a store-keeper in Sweden. The Anderson family lived on this same farm for as long as they were able to farm.

Dad bought a C.P.R. quarter later on, and also homesteaded a quarter that was close to where we lived.

However, in those days we had lots of fun too. There were not very many around, but everyone was good friends and we all were very happy together. We saw each other often and had house dances and picnics, etc. Harry Nelson played the violin and John the accordion.

In those days there were quite a few prairie fires. I remember one coming, and we sure had to work hard to save our barn from burning down.

Mother and Dad lived happily together till God called them home. Dad was 86 years old when he passed away, and mother was 87 years. I am the only one living from my family.

In 1932 I married George Nicholson. We had lived in Markerville district, then we moved to Red Deer. In 1950



George and Carrie (Anderson) Nicholson.

George worked for the Department of Public Works for awhile. Then he worked for Stewart Brother's for 13 years setting up and delivering machinery. George passed away in 1971. I live alone in my own home with my little dog Tippie.

When George was 21 years old he lost a foot in a land clearing accident. He was working alone driving 10 head of horses on a brush cutter when it happened. He took a strap from the harness and made a tournique to stop the bleeding. His younger brother came along and saw what had happened, and promptly fainted. George was still busy with the horses when a neighbor came over and helped him. Then they got into a wagon and took a five hour drive to see a doctor in Innisfail. A lesser man than George might have died.

ERIC AND ADA BERGSTROM — by Ada Bergstorm

Ada Fors married Eric Bergstorm of New Hill in December, 1919.

Eric was born in Sweden in 1892 and came to Canada with his parents in 1903. Eric homesteaded at New Hill on NW 7-37-1-W5. After he made the necessary improvements on the homestead, he did custom breaking and other work. He and his brother, Jonas spent sometime in Washington, Montana, and Idaho, coming back to Canada in 1917.

We lived on his homestead for 4 years after we were married. Carl was born in December, 1920 and Ida in May, 1923.



Eric Bergstrom's, breaking outfit, 1924.



Eric Bergstrom, the hard way.



Ida "Bergstrom" Speller.

We moved to Centerville in March, 1924 on NE 31-37-1-W5. We rented Fanson's farm and lived there from 1929 to 1934. Then we moved and built a house on our own land.

We bought the C. P. Anderson homestead, SE 32-37-1-W5 where we took out logs and had Frank Dallaire saw it into lumber with his saw mill.

Eric was an ardent hunter and fisherman. He always looked forward to the big game hunting season every fall. He was always lucky enough to get his quota of either Elk, Moose or Deer. He passed away in August, 1970 at the age of 78 years.

BIOGRAPHY OF THE CARL BERGSTROM FAMILY — as told by Edna Bergstrom

Carl, whose parents were Ada and Eric Bergstrom, was born in New Hill on December 31, 1920. Later, they moved to the Centerville District. He completed grade 9 at Centerville School. Carl played on the baseball team, and was a member of the Burnt Lake Hockey team. He was always an avid sportsman and was active in hunting and fishing.

He farmed with his dad, and bought the SW 32-37-1-5 quarter. In June of 1952, he married Edna Hilman of the Marianne District. Edna is the daughter of Oscar and Ida Hilman. Together, they continued in the turkey business which Carl had started, (In 1958 Carl had prize turkeys in the Toronto Royal Winter Fair). That first year, they lived at SW 32-37-1-5, where **JUDY** was born, later moving to NW 31-37-1-5, which they rented until the spring of 1961. During this time, four more children were born — **BRENDA, CLARA, HELEN,** and **STEVEN**. In 1961, they moved to NW 32-37-1-5, gave up the turkeys, began raising cattle and engaged in mixed farming. They lived there for several years, and in 1962 moved to SE 31-37-1-5. The two youngest children, **NANCY** and **PATSY**, were born in 1964 and 1966 respectively.

Carl passed away in October, 1968. The family has remained on the farm. At the present time, Judy, who was married to David Hinshaw in 1975, lives in Yellowknife. They have one daughter, Deena, born in 1976. Brenda, presently is in Toronto, Clara is attending college in Red Deer, Helen is working in Yellowknife. Steven, Nancy and Patsy are at home and attend school in Sylvan Lake.



Carl and Edna Bergstrom.



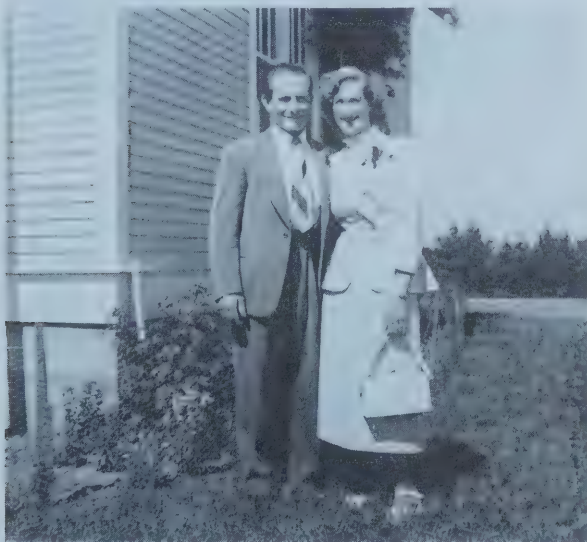
Carl Bergstrom children feeding pigs.

MRS. LIONEL SPELLER nee — Ida Bergstrom — 1923

Educated at Centerville, Sylvan Lake and Red Deer High School, Calgary Normal School, and University of Victoria.

Taught School in the Rocky Mountain House School Division, Red Deer School Division and Greater Victoria School District.

Married in 1952 to Lionel Speller, Victoria, B.C. Two children, **Ross** born in 1955 and **Carol** in 1957.



Ida and Lionel Speller.

SWAN BYSTROM — by Axel Bystrom

My parents, Swan Bystrom and Caroline Bergstrom, were born in Sweden. Dad at Sundsvall on December 20th, 1877 and Mother at Ornskoldsvik on December 30th, 1880. Following their marriage on June 21st, 1902 they left their homeland, with Mother's brother John Bergstrom, to make a new home in Canada. They arrived in the early fall to take part in the harvesting in Minnedosa, Manitoba. Later that same year they came West to the Red Deer area.

The first few years were hard years with little or no money coming in. Dad took work wherever work was to be had. His work took him to various parts of the Continent — the Western United States, British Columbia, the Nosecreek Stonequarry in Calgary and Pipers Brickyard in Red Deer. During this time Mother stayed with the Adrian Erickson family in the Burnt Lake District.

In 1903 Dad filed on a homestead in the Diamond Valley District — NW¼ 34-T37-R3-W5. When he finally raised enough money to settle on the homestead he supplemented his income by hauling hay to Petiphers Saw Mill at Evergreen; hauling lumber from the Mill to Red Deer; and then bringing groceries from Red Deer to Evarts, completing the round trip with team and sleigh. The first threshing machine on the homestead had to be hand fed as there was no feeder and the straw had to be forked away as there was no blower. The first baler was horse powered. All land was broke with a walking plow and three oxen — Frank, Tom and Bob.

After several years of varied unsuccessful experiences they sold the equipment and livestock — keeping the homestead — and moved to Red Deer to operate a boarding house for the years 1911-12. In 1913 they disposed of the homestead to Edward Wadson, moving to the Centerville District to settle on the NE¼ 30-T37-R1-W5, the former John Hopster homestead. The only land cultivated at that time was about eighteen acres. The rest of the land was heavy brush and was all cleared by hand with axe and grub hoe; about ten acres a year to be broken with walking plow and three horses.

The first house was a small log house 12' x 16' with a lean-to on one end for six people to live in. There were four children born in the Diamond Valley District and five born in the Centerville District.



Mr. and Mrs. Swan Bystrom.



Bystrom Family.

Swan and Caroline Bystrom's family consisted of:

Jonas Bernard - See history.

Swan Leonard - See history.

Thekla Evelyn, born June 5, 1909, married Robert Hilding Engman in February 1932 and is at present living in Eckville. Their children are: Doris (Mrs. A. Aldridge) deceased; Harold, Red Deer, married Lorraine Lachaple; Shirley (Mrs. D. Lindsay), Falun; Vernon, Lacombe, married Bev. Shultz; Marilyn (Mrs. C. Frasier), Drumheller; and Steven, Red Deer, married Darlene Young.

Anna Ottelia (Lily), born September 5, 1911, married Herbert J. Cody on August 23, 1938 and has lived all her married life at Sylvan Lake. Bert Cody taught school for many years — first at Burnt Lake, then at Centerville and finally at Sylvan Lake. Members of their family are: Carol (Mrs. E. Austin), Red Deer; Lynn (Mrs. D. Read), Leduc; Patricia (Mrs. R. Connor), Grande Prairie; and Rhonda (Mrs. D. Shannon), Leduc.

John Oliver, born December 28, 1913, married Mrs. Hilda Valli in August 1961.

Eric Edward, born April 8, 1916, married Mrs. Catherine Wells in April 1961. Died on November 21, 1967. For a number of years Ed. and Ole. lived and farmed together on the land formerly owned by James Fanson.

Axel Emmanuel, born December 11, 1918, married Margaret Marion Inglis on October 29, 1949. Our children are: Janet Marion; Gerald Axel and Barry George.

Albert Rudolph, born March 15, 1923, married Mrs. Dora Dahnert in 1975 and lives at Penticton, B.C. Before moving to British Columbia, Albert farmed NW¼ 29-T37-R1-W5. This was a school quarter that Dad bought in 1918 and Albert bought from him in 1948.

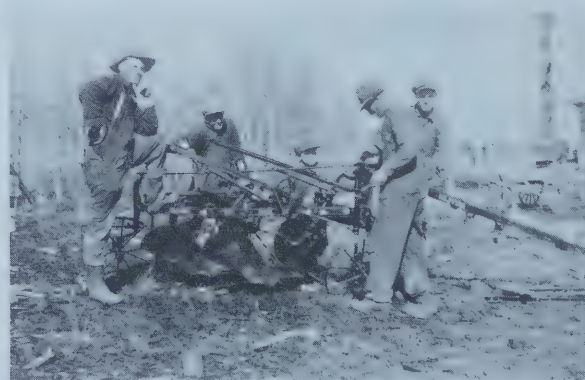
Elsie Caroline, born October, 12, 1925, married William Rudolph Karrer in 1945 and lives on a fruit farm at Penticton, B.C. They have two children: Linda (Mrs. J. Holzman), Calgary and Bryan of Penticton, B.C.



The Axel Bystrom family.



S. Bystrom, at home on the farm.



Bystroms, prepare for spring.

The family all took their early education at the Centerville School. There weren't many grades without a Bell, a Moore or a Bystrom.

Other than the annual picnic and Christmas concert the main entertainment was house parties with the neighbours who were — Bergstroms, Andersons, Nelsons, Holmgrens and Mills.

During the 1920's Dad took an active part in the Centerville Community; serving for many years on the

School Board and as an Executive Member of the First Centerville Telephone Company.

Mother died on May 12, 1939 at the age of 58 and Dad died on September 16, 1957 at the age of 79. Both are buried in the Sylvan Lake Cemetery.

In 1946 I bought the Isaac Dixon homestead (SW¼ 30-T37-R1-W5) from Edward Wadson. In 1949 I bought the home place from Dad and my wife and I still live there with our family.

BIOGRAPHY OF THE J. BERNARD BYSTROM FAMILY — as told by Klara Bystrom

Bernard Bystrom was born in 1904. He was the eldest son of Swan and Caroline Bystrom who came from Sweden in 1902 to homestead in the Evarts district. In 1913 they moved to the Centerville district purchasing the farm now owned by Axel Bystrom.

Mrs. Delia Bystrom was born Miss Delia Fitch at the turn of the century in Nebraska. She came with her parents to the Centerville area in April of 1903. The following is an article submitted to the Sylvan Lake News in 1967 by Miss Alberta Fitch, a niece of Mrs. Delia Bystrom. Interviewing Mrs. Bystrom, Alberta Fitch writes the following memoirs:

"The Fitch family came by train to the town of Red Deer and took a room in the only hotel. She recalls that it was a cold wet spring. For warmth they wore red flannelled undies. Because her younger sister was only six weeks old, the steward at the hotel brought in a hanging coal-oil lamp for warmth. From Red Deer, they travelled by team and lumber wagon to her grandfather's homestead. The road was a mere trail.

Her father filed on a homestead one and a half miles from the Centerville School where Delia lived until going away for further education. The land was much wetter in those days than it is now, and it was hard to find a dry location on which to build the house. Large trees were scarce, but small willows were plentiful. Tall grass was everywhere. On one occasion, a fire swept through the grass to their place and it took many fighers to save the buildings.

The entire family with relatives, drove by covered wagon to Sylvan Lake in July. The road was rough, muddy and full of holes. There they camped, fished, boated and picked berries. The fish were salted down in barrels for use later. In those early days, Evarts was a fair sized village. It was not uncommon to use a four-horse team in travelling there, where they sold cream and traded eggs and butter for groceries. Stick candy, gingersnaps and crackers were free for all the customers to help themselves. Mail was addressed to Red Deer, N.W.T., and they went there for it.

School was first taught in Centerville in 1904. Mrs. Bystrom attended for two weeks at the age of four. In 1917, after her schooling at Centerville, Delia took high school in Red Deer. While there, she rented a room for \$5.50 per month. For warmth and cooking purposes, she used a small wood and coal burning monkey stove. The oven was a drum in the stove pipe. She was an excellent cook, proved by the fact that when she baked, other students flocked in and devoured a large share of her baking.

Two months before her final exams in grade twelve, she was asked to teach for a week at the Balmoral

School. That year in May, the snow was three feet on the level. During the school term of 1919-1920 she taught at Centerville. The next year she attended Normal School at Camrose. Willowdale was her next teaching assignment for one and a half years. She then returned to her own community and taught until June of 1928. In that year she married Mr. Bernard Bystrom. After their marriage, Mrs. Bystrom taught at Marianne school for four years."

In 1927 Bernard purchased the Roy Stone homestead for \$3,500.00. Roy Stone, another pioneer of the Centerville district, was an undertaker from Red Deer. At the time of purchase there was only 10 acres broken and a small 2 room house. It was to this home that Bernard brought his bride in 1928. Here they raised their family of four children. Mrs. Bystrom looked after her invalid grandfather, O. D. Fitch, from 1931 till he died in 1934 and her uncle Hubert Fitch for one year. Mrs. Bystrom stopped teaching for a few years while her family was small and during the intervening years boarded many of the Centerville school teachers; these being Waldon Miller, Bert Cody, Eugenie Walters and Sady Reid. Mrs. Bystrom taught school again at Centerville from 1945 until 1950.

The Bystroms were active in community affairs. Mr. Bystrom was a member of the School Board for a number of years, Superintendent of the Sunday School and a director for the R.E.A.

Mr. Bystrom retired from active farming in 1967 when his son Bert purchased the family farm. He passed away after a brief illness on September 8, 1975.

Mrs. Bystrom now resides at the Senior Citizens' Lodge at Sylvan Lake.

The Bystrom children are:

Dorothy, who is married to Dale Davis. Dale is a Metallurgical Engineer with Kaiser Aluminum. They have 3 children; Barbara (Mrs. Leslie Young), Lisa and Carolyn. They all make their home in Spokane, Washington.

Burdette and his wife, Louise, ranch in Caroline. They have six children; Sheryl, Sharlene, Sharmane, Shawna, Jim and their chosen son Blain.

Burness and his wife, Ann, farm in the Happy Hill District. They have four children; Douglas, John, Katharyn and Karen.

Hubert (Bert) and his wife, Klara, live on the family farm. They have three children; Todd, Sandra and Pauline.

THE BERTRAM BELL FAMILY

Bertram Bell was born in the town of Redcar on the north coast of England in 1890. The first seven years of his life were spent there roaming the seashore and watching the many shipwrecks and rescues made during the frequent storms along the coast. In 1898 he and his parents moved to the city of Leeds where his father became a bookmaker at the race-track for horses and dogs. He later bred dogs for racing.

Bertram took up accounting as his life work and was in the reserve army in 1910 at the coronation of George V in London.

Ann Elizabeth Long was born in 1891 in Newcastle, but the family later moved to Leeds where her father was employed as a hotel keeper. It was here that she met Ber-



Mr. and Mrs. B. Bell. Wedding day.

tram Bell. They were married on April 10, 1913, and a few days later left England to immigrate to Canada, choosing Winnipeg as their destination. Before their departure, Bertram was presented with a money-belt and a revolver "to face the Wild West".

They arrived in Winnipeg about the end of April, but purchased fares on to Edmonton from which went by horse and buggy to the town of Ferntosh, a distance of fifty miles. Here Bert found employment in the hotel as bartender and Ann as maid. This lasted only a few months and then they moved to Calgary where Bert was employed by the Calgary Gas Company. They spent five years in Calgary. During this time two children, **Barbara** and **Vincent**, were born.

In 1918, Bert, Ann and their two children moved to Vancouver where Bert worked as a pipe-fitter in the shipyards. They spent three years in Vancouver and during this time one more son, **Brian**, was added to the family.

Bert's ambition even before he left England was to be a farmer, so in the fall of 1920 he came back to Calgary and worked in the harvest fields in the Vulcan area. In March, 1921, he purchased the Earl Grimson half-section of land (east half 6-38-1-5) which the Jamieson Brothers had traded for a hardware store in Sylvan Lake. They arrived in Sylvan Lake in late April and were taken to



The B. Bell family home on the farm.

their farm by John Bergstrom who ran a dray at that time.

It was a grim day for Bert, a "green Englishman" with a wife and three children when he moved to the Centerville district. The weather was cold and the house (the former Stockholm store at Burnt Lake) was cold and drafty. There was no dry wood around, and many times they tried to burn the green wood but they would have to leave the house because of the smoke.

It was a great day when their horses came to Sylvan Lake by train from the Pat Burns Ranch. They were supposed to be broken to work but turned out to be as "green" as the Englishman. They could not get near some of them for over a week so they had to be watered over the mangers. Vincent tried to show some friends



B. Bell and sons.



Mrs. B. Bell and daughters.

how quiet they were but landed in the gutter on the other side of the barn.

In 1922 more hardships came because on June 22, Ann gave birth to twins, **Marjorie** and **Marmaduke**. Things looked good in 1923 with bumper crops, but in 1927 came the first hail storm. That same year another daughter, **Pauline**, was born. In 1930 **Wesley** became a member of the family.

It was about this time that Bert and Ann made another important decision, when a farmer-preacher (Peter Rick) came to visit them with his charts, talking about Bible prophecy. He held some meetings in the Centerville school and at the close of the meetings they became members of the Seventh-day Adventist church. With the help and encouragement of their neighbors, Bert and Ann were able to face the "hungry thirties" which were hard days for everyone.

In 1935, the family began to leave the nest. **Barbara** was the first to leave — to work in Calgary, Fernie, and Vancouver. It was in Vancouver that she met Ted Trussell whom she married in 1937. Four children were born to this family — Kathleen, the twins Beryl and Beverly, and Bertram. Barbara and Ted are presently residing in Keremeos, where they own an orchard.



The B. Bell family, 1948.

Vincent started a trucking business in 1939. In February, 1942, he married a girl from New Norway, Rachel Stanwick. They lived in the old Grandma Nelson house for a time until they purchased their present homesite in the Kuusamo district. Their six boys; George, David, Richard, Victor, Bruce and Stanley, should all help to perpetuate the Bell name.

In 1931, **Brian** went into partnership with Vince. In January, 1942, he joined the Armed Forces in which he served until October, 1945. During this time he purchased a quarter-section of land in the Centerville district formerly belonging to Charlie, Stone and Carrie Anderson. While stationed in Regina, he was billeted at the home of Mr. and Mrs. George Curtis and met their niece Vivian Horne, whom he married in August, 1948. To this family four children were born: Curtis, now a resident M.D. at the Foothills Hospital in Calgary; Heather, (who was killed in an automobile accident in October, 1971); Colleen; and Marcia. Vivian suffered for several years with cancer before her passing in August, 1975.

Madge was the oldest of the twins by ten minutes. She took her high school in Sylvan Lake, Red Deer and CUC. She completed her R.N. in Lethbridge and took further surgical training in Edmonton. She was matron of the Red Deer Hospital and served as a missionary nurse in Nicaragua for three years. She married Arthur Severtson, who was living with the Robert Pearson family in Shady Nook. They lived at Lamming Mills, B.C. before purchasing the former Riecki farm in the Kuusamo district. Their children are: Keith, Elizabeth and Marmaduke.

Duke, the second of the twins, was, as he says, "a gentleman right from the start" — ladies first! He began trucking in 1941, and when Brian returned from the army, went into partnership with him. He married Evelyn McLuhan, a school teacher from Victoria, B.C. They have two children: Rosemarie and Margery.

Pauline left home to go to school in Red Deer where she stayed with the Peter Rick family. After graduating from high school at CUC, she became a secretary in the Red Deer Hospital. She took her nursing training at the Lamont School of Nursing. During this time she went to study psychiatric nursing at Ponoka. It was here that she met Milton (Mike) Pasek, from Czechoslovakia, who was also taking training there. They were married and are presently residing in Calgary, where Pauline is nursing at the Holy Cross Hospital and Mike is an orderly at the General Hospital. They have one son, Milton.

Wesley also went to Canadian Union College during his high school years. He left to seek his fortune in B.C. Part of this time he drove the famous Tally-Ho sight-seeing teams in Victoria. After his return to Alberta he graduated from the Provincial Training School in Red Deer, where he met Pearl Housman, who was also a graduate of PTS. Wesley continued to work there until he returned to the Bertram Bell farm to live and work. He owned land in the Evergreen and Marianne districts. He also worked in the construction business for several years. He is presently employed by the County of Lacombe and is residing in Bentley. Wesley and Pearl have five children: Bertram, Dawn, Kevin, Denise, and Bradley.

Bertram Bell stayed on the farm and, in spite of difficulty in getting around because of a hip-joint operation, he continued to be active both on the farm and as Secretary of the Centerville Mutual Telephone Company and treasurer of his church. He passed away on the first day of spring, 1970, the day after his 80th birthday. Neither he nor his family have regretted in any way the course that his life has taken. Their family is proud of the small part their parents played in the making of the rural communities of Centerville, Burnt Lake and Marianne.

Ann Bell, though hospitalized many times since the passing of her husband, continues to live in the district and is always interested in all the activities of her many friends that shared these times with her.

BIOGRAPHY OF THE ED BEESON FAMILY — as told by Mrs. Ed Beeson

Ed Beeson moved from his farm in Saskatchewan to Sylvan Lake in the spring of 1918. Eight miles south of here he bought a section of raw land in the Centerville district. The family lived in a cottage at the lake until Ed built a small frame house on the land, moving there in May. It looked rather discouraging as all the land had to be cleared and broken, also have a well drilled.

When the family first came there they had three small children, **ROBERT** three years, **MARJORIE** almost two years and **JOHN** four months old. The next year a baby daughter **DOROTHY** was born, later three more boys arrived, **MAXWELL**, **WILMOT** and **HARVEY**.

There was no big machinery to clear and break land in those days but used brush cutters, axes etc., the hard way. There were good neighbors especially George and Arthur Moores, Thompsons, Fitches, Smiths, Bystroms and nearby two other good neighbors, Mr. Dixon (bachelor) and Mr. Gates Sr. These two often spent X-mas with the Beeson family.

The First World War ended November 1918 after the family arrived that spring. The family spent nine years on the farm, later moved to Okotoks, Alberta, where they lived for five years. The depression came around 1933 so the family took a homestead not far from Barrhead, Alberta.

When the Second World War broke out all the boys and one girl enlisted, one other girl married at the time. Two enlisted in the Air Force, two in the Army and two in the Navy.

All the land in that section was sold and divided among other parties. The only landmark on that place now is the old log pump house that Ed built long ago and which has a few bushes around it.

The children are married now. Robert and Maxwell and families live in B.C. while the rest of the family are in Alberta. Ed passed away in July, 1964. I still reside on the farm northwest of Barrhead.

THE CLARKIN FAMILY — by Violet M. (Clarkin) Hubert

Henry Pope Clarkin was born in Prince Edward Island in 1879, probably of second generation Irish stock. He came west in the early 1900's and homesteaded in the HOLA district on the S.E. 14-37-2-W.5 in 1905. In the early 1920's he bought a Hudson's Bay quarter in the Centerville district, S.E. 26-37-2-W.5. He married in 1919. On September 30, 1919, a son, **James** (Jim) was



Jin and Violet Clarkins.

born. **Violet** was born on January 30, 1921 and another brother, **William** (Bill) was born in 1924 and died in 1955.

Jim married Margaret Phillion and has five children plus one adopted child and lives north of Eckville, Alberta. Violet stayed single until 1974 when she married Jacob Hubert.

Henry Clarkin died on February 4th, 1935 and his wife died in October, 1946. Gordon Moore now has the home place in the Centerville district.

Some of the earliest memories of the Centerville District include the road running north and south past the Clarkin place. It was a ribbon of mud all the way to Markerville most of the time. "I remember the old roads through the bush," recalls Violet M. Hubert (Clarkin). People still used them when driving to Red Deer. When Mr. Clarkin bought the upper quarter the family was up there before a plow had touched that land. They were sorry to see the wild gooseberry bushes being plowed under.

After the Clarkins had moved there to be closer to the Centerville School, Violet and her brother found an old rusted bear trap and a buffalo skull in a swamp, and in their imaginations they tried to visualize the not too long ago fur trading days. During those days, bands of Indians still roamed about cutting brush for farmers. On a cold rainy day in the summer, Mr. Clarkin took a creamer can of buttermilk up to the upper quarter for the Indian

children. At first they fled, but the adults persuaded them to come back and soon they stood around drinking with white rings around their mouths. Another day the family was driving south of the upper quarter with a team on the running gear of the wagon. West of Thompson's place they met two of the Indians who were cutting brush for them. They were carrying two dead, but unplucked chickens. Sure enough they were the Clarkin's chickens! One Indian said that the one hen looked a little sick so he finished her off, and the other one wasn't roosting comfortably. So, while the Clarkins had been in Red Deer, the Indians were helping themselves to the chickens.

The Clarkins lower quarter was mostly hay land and on the west side there were some circular ridges in the grass and stones here and there around the rings. The neighbour lady said they were fairy rings, but they know now that these were places where Indians once had teepees erected. Some time later it is recalled that the dog dug up a bag of pemmican and ate it.

Fresh is the memory of the sights and smells of the country. On the way to school one could pick almost any wild flower. The lower quarter was yellow with wild buttercups in the spring. This family lived in a region of unspoiled nature that cannot be matched by any park today.

Harvest time was an exciting time for the children then. Cutting the grain with horse binders and stooking it was an exciting time. Every year the Clarkin family were at Arthur or George Moore's as Mr. Clarkin worked with them in the early years. Many enjoyable hours were spent by the children playing with Frank Moore floating little boats in the creek which flowed through their yard and formed a cool and shady pool under some tall overhanging trees.

Violet recalls her school days with Miss Elliot and Delia Bystrom teaching Grade 1. Miss Bishop taught Grade 2, Mrs. Hawkins taught from Grades 3 to 6, and Grades 7 and 8 were taught by Mr. Cody. Centerville School was one mile north of the Clarkins upper quarter and the children learned to walk to school in all kinds of weather.

On the lower quarter they kept cattle in the summer and one of the children would have to ride down there nearly every day to see that there was water in the trough; a long wooden steamer tank. On a summer day the children were down there playing around the water trough. Budd and Dan Fitch drove south in the old truck they had. When the Clarkin children saw them coming back north, they would dip five pound lard pails from the brimming trough and run out to the road to throw the water on them as they passed. The wind from the speeding truck flung the water back on them and they were thoroughly drenched.

In 1930 there were low-bush blueberries everywhere on the bush quarters. With a picker one could fill a sixteen quart pail in a few hours and have a full stomach too. People ate blueberry pies, canned blueberries, made blueberry shortcake, and had them with sugar and cream.

Violet, as a child knew many of the people in the district who were old-timers then. She visited Jack Fitch and he was an awful tease. She played all his records on the old hand-winding gramophone. He had all the old songs

on records, "K-K-K-Katy", "Rock all our Babies to Sleep", and many more. This was Violet's introduction to music.

In 1935, Dan and Budd Fitch threshed the Clarkin crop with the steam outfit and that was the last year they operated it. You could hear the steamer coming (chuff-chuff-CHUFF-chuff) for over two miles.

In 1928 Mr. Clarkin bought a 1925 Star car and drove to Washington state to visit his brother. The mountain roads had no guard rails, were too narrow to pass another car, and one had only to lean out to see the wrecked cars at the bottom of the gorges. When they reached home after their trip, there was a bumper crop, but before 1929 arrived, the depression was upon them.

In 1930's for several days the sun was a red ball and everyone was a bit frightened wondering what caused this eerie sight. Now they know that the sun was merely being dimmed by the tons of top soil in the atmosphere that were being blown from farms in southern Alberta. Many people living through this period will remember beef selling on the hoof for three cents per pound, a huge sow pig selling for five dollars, etc. Many went barefoot a lot and enjoyed it not knowing any better things. If it was a hot day they only had to walk down the tree lined and shady creek that ran through the draw on the Clarkin farm. Every native bird chirped and sang in the trees and the sounds of haunting bird calls echoed on the evening air.

Many years have passed, but old landmarks that remain bring back memories. It is very hard to realize that fifty years have passed like a flash since these events occurred.

THE ELLIOTT FAMILY

John and Mable Elliott came to Canada in 1928 with 3 children, Jean, Glenn, and Clyde. Rent for farmland became too high and Dad decided to try Canada. We sold most of our furniture and machinery, visited a few relatives before we left, and arrived in Brooks in early April. It was dry and warm when we got there, but the day we moved to our home in Rainier we awoke to a raging blizzard. Jean, Glenn, and Clyde went to the Bow Slope school. Dad didn't like irrigation, so in 1932 we moved to Red Deer, settling in the Centerville district. We bought a section of land from Oscar Hooey. Sec. 19-T37-R1-W5. It was later divided. A daughter Marian remained in Iowa.

John Samuel Elliott born was born Nov. 30, 1885 and passed away in June 1958. Jessie Mable Furry was born in Missouri on Sept. 17, 1888. She passed away in Jan., 1942.

Marian married Frank Seda, resides in Waterloo, Iowa. They have one son, Leroy and one daughter, Janice. **Jean** married Alfred Smith and lived on Sec. 20-T17-R1-W5 for twenty-one years. They have five children Harvey, Anita, Louise, Marlene, and Wendell. **Glen** served in the Canadian Army for about a year and transferred to the U.S. Navy. His ship was torpedoed at Palermo, Italy. Later, he served in the south seas around Guam. He married Berth Bell from Red Deer and had one boy, Kenneth and one girl, Karen. He is now an electrician at Los Gatos, California. **Clyde** joined the Air Force in Canada, spending a year in Calgary and Moncton, N.B. and later transferred to the American Air Force. Then he was in Nebraska and finally at Guam. He

married Virgene McKnight in Spokane, Wash. They have four children David, Wanda, Pamela and Randy. **Leona** was born in 1933. She took her schooling at HOLA, Pine Hill and Sylvan Lake. She married Larry Peters and they had a family of seven children — Shirley, Sharin, Mitchell, Dale, and Deryl (twins) Dwayne and Laurie. They now live in Calgary.

Alfred and Jean Smith's children attended Pine Hill school until busing came in. Harvey and Anita went to Red Deer, Louise, Marlene, and Wendell went to Sylvan Lake. In 1961, we moved to Markerville for better access to school from home. Marlene and Wendell graduated from the Spruceview school. Marlene was the valedictorian for her class.

Harvey had his pipe fitter and plumbing certificate but is now a Mobile home mover and lives in Prince George, B.C. He served three years in the Canadian Navy. Anita graduated as an R.N. at the Royal Alexander Hospital, Edmonton. And is now married to Theodore Jendrey. They live near Chicago, Illinois and have four children — Patti, Philip, Kimberly, and David.

Louise married Gerald Frazier and had three children—twins, Valerie, Violet, and Lavern. Gerry was killed in a car accident and she is now married to John Popoff and lives at Castlegar, B.C. They have a son, Edie.

Marlene went to university — one year in Red Deer and three years in Calgary. She has her Bachelor of Education certificate and taught two years at Fairview, Alberta. She went to Germany and met Stanley Falls and married him at Sault St. Marie. They spent another nine months in Germany and now live at Orleans, Ont. Stanley is still in the Army and they have two boys, Scott and Trevor.

Wendell graduated from Spruceview and went to work at the Treasury Branch in Innisfail. He had been at Drayton Valley, Peace River, Fairview, Two Hills, St. Paul, and is now at Athabaska where he is an assistant manager. He married Anne Ogrodniczuk of Peace River in 1971 and they have one daughter, Jennifer Jean.

Alfred Smith passed away after a lengthy illness on July 15, 1974. Jean sold the farm and now resides in the Innisfail Trailer Court.

ENGELBERT FORS — by Ada Bergstrom

Engelbert was born in Sweden in 1889 and came to Canada with his parents in 1894. He homesteaded in the New Hill District on SE 12-37-4-W5. He worked at Piper's brick yard and Alberta Central Railway when it was built. He bought the C.P.R. quarter at Centerville, SW 31-37-1-W5. He moved his log house from New Hill and lived in it until he built a house. Besides farming, he did gardening, experimenting with different kinds of vegetables, berries and fruit trees.

Another one of his special hobbies was photography. In the early days he was often called on to take pictures and photos at various occasions. He also played the accordion very well.

Engelbert passed away in October, 1968 at the age of 79.

THE JOHN SURDAM FITCH FAMILY — information supplied by Laura May Fitch

Though this writer has spent 46 years in the Centerville District, she feels unequipped to do justice to her late husband's parents, in that she lacks personal knowledge of the previous 30 years — the crucial ones.

To many people, John was known as "Jack" Fitch. To the writer, he had always been John S. Fitch and "Pop" to all his family and in-laws. So throughout the following paragraphs we shall refer to him as J.S. Mrs. John S. Fitch was "Mom" to her family and in-laws and many others as well.

John S. and his wife, Ida Ellen (Oliver) came to their homestead, N.E. 26-37-2-5, in April of 1901 from Butte, Nebraska by train with a good line of settler's effects. Crops had been drought and grasshopper stricken for more than one season in Nebraska. Too, their friends and neighbours the Michael Quinns had come here from Nebraska the previous year. Mr. Quinn was influenced in moving by his brother, a member of the Royal Northwest Mounted Police stationed at Fort McLeod. Consequently, John S. had made the trip to the area west of Red Deer and visited the Quinns in December, 1900, and decided at that time to move north also to settle.

On arriving, J.S. bought the S.½ 35-37-2-5, the S.E.¼ 25-37-2-5, as well as S.W. 33-37-2-5. He homesteaded the N.W.¼ 26-37-2-W. 5.

The Fitch family comprising daughters, **Jennie, Aura**, and baby **Fay**, and their parents were hospitably received by their good friends, the Michael Quinns. They stayed there until housing could be erected on their own homestead. The first Fitch home was a two stored L shaped frame structure, and was painted. Later on a log barn and other buildings were added. J. S. Fitch and Michael Quinn owned and operated a sawmill.

In 1903 with the need of education facilities for the children, settlers contributed all materials and labor to erect the first Centerville School on two acres donated by J.S. on the S.E. 35-37-2-5.

Indications are that many capable hired men worked on the Fitch holdings those early years clearing and breaking many acres of virgin soil.

About 1914 J.S. traded the S.W.¼ 33-37-2-5 to the Wind Engine and Pump Co., Edmonton for a Flour City Gas tractor. He also purchased a Case Separator with which to thresh. Many other tractors came and went. Eventually threshing for himself and custom work was done with a steam engine complete with a water tank made of wood. A crew of 13 men was necessary to keep up this equipment. It also took a very active cook, and hopefully a helper, to keep the hard working crew fed. Much baking was done ahead of necessity. Hours were pre-dawn to well after dark. Sweating horses pulled the towering loads of sheaves — others hauled grain tanks and wagon boxes to granaries. Here men reconstituted any flabby muscles, unloading by hand with scoop shovels flying to get back to the machine in time. Hapless youngsters could find themselves in a grain bin after school "shovelling back". The bread was truly earned by the sweat of the entire body by man and beast.

Jennie Lind Fitch married Joe Ferguson in 1910 and moved with him to their homestead the N.E. 28-37-2-5. The land was very low and the couple occupied abandoned buildings on the former Gudbrundson quarter section. This cornered their land and had a ready supply of water from springs. The R. W. Fitch family now live on and own this quarter section. Sometime later Jennie's father bought the Joe Ferguson homestead quarter section; later trading it to R. B. Welliver, Red Deer for a Model T Ford Car. This was about 1912 and was probably the district's first automobile. The Fergusons



J. S. Fitch and wife with her sister.



J. S. Fitch and daughter, Jennie Ferguson.

relocated on S.W. 18-37-1-5 which had been vacated by a homesteader. Two children Glen Keith and Kathleen Lind (Mae) were born to the Fergusons. Glen passed away at Cache Creek, B.C. in recent years; Mae lives at Oregon City, U.S.A. with her husband Ray Leasure. The Sr. Fergusons are both deceased.

Around 1912 Mrs. Fitch's father, Mr. Oliver, drove up in a covered wagon from Nebraska and stayed a few years. He was a fiddler and on occasions played for dances held when new buildings were completed, to give a break to the unending rounds of labor. Mr. Oliver also assisted with a Sunday School held at the school under the leadership of Mr. Thomas Thompson. Rev. G. W. McKecknic conducted church services at this time as well.

About 1915 a large horse barn was erected on the J.S. home quarter. Many dances are reported to have been jigged out here.

In 1916 J.S. built a large home which still stands firm and very useable. It had a full-sized basement with a furnace and Delco light plant. A cold partitioned area was built to house a Dumb Waiter which plied up and down from the main floor on a system of pulleys. Large vegetable bins were here, and ample space for piles of furnace length poplar wood for winter heating. There was also a cutting block where Mrs. Fitch herself cut up most of the meat butchered on the farm. She toiled long hours to produce and can dozens of jars of vegetables on the basement shelves, not to mention many quarts of blueberries and saskatoons.

The main floor of the new house was spacious, and walls were finished with lathe and plaster. The floors were hard wood, doors and trim handsomely done in a dark stained wood with some scroll work added. Dances were sometimes held here, Open-House style, and much enjoyed by all including the host and hostess.

There were four very large bedrooms and a modern bathroom on the second floor. A third story was called "the attic". There was a verandah upstairs off the hall at the front, with larger verandahs front and back downstairs.

A tall metal wind-mill was erected in the barn yard to pump water for the many horses and other livestock. It seemed to have been the only one in the area. The wind blew less forcefully then as there were still large areas in timber.

According to Tony Cashman in "Singing Wires, The Telephones in Alberta", pages 257 and 258, "The area west of Sylvan Lake was a hotbed of telephony in the first war and Jack Fitch was the mover. He had a farm at Evarts and experience at mutual telephone organization in the United States. Jack started to move in the triangle from Evarts to Markerville to the village of Sylvan Lake. He organized seventy farmers into the Centerville Telephone Co. and in the spring of 1916 he had them connected to Red Deer." At the Benalto annual summer Agricultural show that year, Mr. Cashman continues, he met John Lundberg of Eckville and Mr. Lundberg asked Mr. Fitch to speak to a meeting of farmers with a view to getting phones between Eckville and Gilby. Again quoting Mr. Cashman, "Jack said he'd be glad to come and he did so well that before the meeting ended twenty-one good men had pledged a mile of poles apiece and Mr. Fitch was empowered to order the equipment. In August

the line was working, with one phone in Mike Sestrap's general store at Gilby, another in Marshall's drug store at Eckville and fifteen farmers in between."

In 1912 O. D. Fitch, a first cousin of J. S. Fitch, traded his homestead the S.E. ¼ 2-38-2-5 to Harry Holloway for land at Leslieville. Later J.S. bought this land from Mr. Holloway. There in the sturdy log house many people lived through the years. Some of the earlier ones were the Ohlingers, the Ben Shearer family, and the Tom Meyers. The J. Williams were there as owners in the early 1920's. Bill Hammond also planned to buy it as well as the N.E. ¼ 35-37-2-5 from John Fitch. This latter quarter J.S. bought from Dick Higginson when he left for Peace River in 1918. Later Mr. Hammond moved to Leslieville. In 1934 Dan Fitch and wife Millya moved onto the N.E. ¼ 35-37-2-5.

Five more children were born to Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Fitch in Canada namely: Cora A., Budd, Dan L., Grace B., and Diantha J.

Aura married Charles A. Hazen and a good part of their life was lived in Centerville. Aura passed away at the age of 37. Her husband died in 1957. Their children were Theodore, Ellen, Dwight, Frank, Gene, Jessie, Joan, Harold, and Iona. Dwight and Gene enlisted in the Army in World War II.

Fay married Carl Englund and they lived for a few years in the Peace River area. Viola and Clifford were born there. Carl farmed for a time with Mr. Hubert J. Fitch in Centerville. Here Arleen, Edna, and Stanley were born. Clifford Englund was a mechanic in the Air Force in World War II. The Englunds lived at Caroline for a time, before moving to B.C. Both Fay and Carl passed away at Vancouver.

Cora married James Connon and lived most of her life at the West Coast. The Connons had two sons, James



Children of Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Fitch.



Dan Fitch, threshing, Bob Butler driving mules on header.



Chain gate.



Beet Thinner.

McKinley and Angus John. McKinley saw service in World War II.

Budd Fitch married Laura Ardell. They adopted Joan, Budd's niece, had a foster-son Ronald Pasicka for some years, and two daughters Angeline and Catherine. Budd passed away in 1954.

Dan L. married Millya E. Halstein in 1934. They have two sons, Gordon R. and Lorne A.

Grace married Earl Ford. They lived some years at Grande Prairie, and had two children, Gwendolyn and Gordon Ronald. Grace passed away in Calgary after a long illness.

Diantha married Robert Butler. They farmed the "Paul" Fitch quarter (N.W. 35-37-2-5) for a time. They had one son, Robert. They eventually moved to B.C. Diantha is now Mrs. James Creelman and she and her husband live at Kamloops, B.C.

In 1920 J.S. bought the N.W. 35-37-2-5 from Paul Fitch who had returned to the United States. Through the years J.S. had also acquired two lots at Sylvan Lake, and a house and acreage on Lulu Island, B.C.

J.S. had spent considerable time and money on inventions, two of which were patented. The beet thinning

machine was manufactured at Corpus Christi, Texas, U.S.A., where its inventor spent some time. It is reported someone else has re-vamped the machine and it is now in use. He also had a chain gate with a system of levers and ropes designed to allow one to drive up to it, pull a rope, drive over the collapsed gate, closing it by pulling a second rope while driving slowly. These gates were manufactured in Red Deer in the mid 20's.

In 1922 a severe bone injury, sustained at age twelve by J.S. worsened seriously. It had long been an open sore. In the hospital at Red Deer, the bone was scraped and treated, then an amputation done below the knee. A second amputation well above the knee was necessary to stem the gangrenous infection however. With facilities then available, in pre-antibiotic days, it is a credit to the skill of the late Dr. Richard Parsons, and the stamina of the patient that J.S. lived to walk again, albeit with an artificial limb.

For many years Mrs. Fitch cared for Jimmy Tobin Jr. after his mother's death. Later her granddaughter Jessie made her home with her grandparents. Mrs. Fitch was a hard working woman, and a wonderful cook. Her blueberry short cakes, made in huge pans, were perfection and she always knew where to find the first blueberries. Her other baking and cooking matched the quality of the shortcake. She was a gifted seamstress — used no patterns, but always a perfectly made garment. Like her husband, Mrs. Fitch enjoyed company and when the family were all gone, the big house could seem just too big and empty. Most welcome were their good friends and neighbours, the Thomas Thompsons who often walked up for a visit of an evening.

Mrs. Fitch suffered a broken arm the summer of 1939 from the effects of which she never recovered. She passed away very peacefully in the Red Deer Hospital on September 23, 1939. The next day she would have been 70.

Jennie Ferguson came to be with her father after his wife's passing. Mr. Wm. Sheppard a lay preacher had always included the Fitch home in his pastoral calls. He had gone to Australia in 1935 to visit some of his family and passed away there later. Rev. John Hart was the minister for Centerville at this time. At the request of J.S., Mr. Hart now became a frequent visitor with Mr. Fitch. For two or three weeks prior to his passing the sons of J.S., Budd and Dan, kept night vigils with their

father while their sister got some rest. It was harvest time so little sleep was had. There were no complaints. On August 15, 1940 John Surdam Fitch passed on in his 81st year.

ODE TO JOHN SURDAM FITCH

He loved and tilled the fertile soil,
Cleared and broken by heavy toil
For daily needs and food;
Then for his brood
With wisdom and discerning —
Saw to a place of formal learning.
The school and brood are memory —
And so is he;
Nothing as it used to be;
Progress pushes on relentlessly —
Modern machines grind thro' rock and sand
Sullyng the beauteous land,
As rigs and men now drill and moil
O'er his land in search of oil.

BUDD AND LAURA FITCH — by Laura M. Fitch

Budd and Laura were married on June 7, 1930 at the home of Laura's parents, Joseph and Clara Ardell, in the Diamond Valley District. Rev. R. S. Stevens officiated. Immediate relatives were present including Mr. and Mrs. John Fitch, Dan and Diane Fitch, the Englands, "Uncle" Hubert Fitch, and the Fergusons from Centerville.

Until January, 1932, Budd and Laura made their home with the John Fitches, Budd's parents. At this time they moved into a small new frame house on S.W. ¼ 35-37-2-5. The land was heavy with poplars, and in season abounded with blueberries. Very little land was under cultivation. The Fitches referred to it as "the back pasture". They also assumed ownership of N.W. ¼ 25-37-2-5 which had more cultivated land on it.

Their worldly goods were very minimal: 3 cows (1 a gift from Laura's parents), 4 horses, a Stewart truck, Budd's bed and bedroom stand from home, a drop-leaf table made by Budd, and 6 kitchen chairs. These were bought from Bullock and Calendar of Red Deer for 95 cents each — a 15 cent each reduction as they had been used at a meeting once. The larder was scant, the cows were all dry, and cash practically nil. They had one coal oil lamp (new) and a much used lantern and a discarded "silver" bowled Aladdin pine lumber. They had a small range from Eaton's with reservoir for water and a used cast iron heating stove. Walls and woodwork were unpainted, windows were bare. Luckily, Laura had a couple of extra sheets in her "hope chest" — Grandfather's old steamer trunk.

Budd rustled grain hauling jobs wherever possible for a few cents a bushel. Grain prices were low. Some years later wheat, Garnet was the variety grown, brought 26 cents per bushel. If no hauling, Budd worked on a log barn with a straw roof. Hens, the cows, and horses shared it. It had six double stalls. Later a hen house was built the same style and the same builder. They were fine buildings with waxed cotton windows, in winter when the cow dung held fast in the cracks and the snow stayed frozen. Summer — well, one just had to teach the cows to stand while you milked outside. With flies, mosquitoes, and tempermental bovines, the "milking parlor" could be quite expansive.

Problems for many years were the vicious red ants and skunks. Their dog, Patches, was a great skunk dog and in season nearly always was generously scented.

Budd and Laura's road allowance was heavily tread and the trail wound back and forth through the fallen trees. They had no telephone for several years. Eventually their good neighbours, the E. B. Fitches and the S. K. Sigurdsons, with Budd, built sufficient line to get hooked up to the Centerville Mutual Telephone Co., and became members of that company. From Mrs. S. K. Sigurdson and Mrs. "Earl" Fitch, Laura borrowed on a regular basis, a dasher butter churn and a set of sad irons. What a happy day for Laura when she got her own set of sad irons.

In early years people from the treeless land west of Budd and Laura came with teams and bob-sleds in deep snow and bitter cold to cut wood on their quarter section at 50 cents per load. Among the many were Thomas Munro and Mr. Gowans Sr., who always enjoyed a cup of tea and a warm-up prior to the long trip home. Walking behind the loads, to keep warm, pulled by frosted-white horses they would reach their farms well after darkness had fallen. A year's supply of wood must be piled at home each winter also. It was cut by hand — no power saws. Toward spring, wood sawing was a big event. Sometimes neighbouring wives came with their men and brought small children. All cooks put forth an effort to feed well. Homemade ice cream for afternoon lunches was a real treat. Ice came from water tanks or north sides of buildings. The machine was cranked by hand.

To make wood splitting less arduous and monotonous, Budd got wheels etc., and built a very satisfactory wood-splitter driven by a gasoline pump engine they had finally acquired. Previous to this, water was pumped by hand.

Machinery was borrowed routinely in early years. Usually the only stipulation being — "keep it oiled".

Every winter found Budd and Laura's side at least snowed in at times in the community. Several farmers would band together to get out to Sylvan Lake for staples and mail. High priorities were coal oil for lamps and lanterns, and tobacco if one indulged.

Centerville was a Presbyterian Home Mission field. Student ministers came in earlier years for the summer months. Many services were conducted by Mr. Sheppard Sr. after he came to live on the farm of his son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. F. M. Hodges. Mr. Sheppard visited a great many homes travelling with his white horse and buggy. Mr. Hodges for years served ably as Sunday School Superintendent.

Rev. R. S. Stevens of Sylvan Lake held services during the 1930's. Through his efforts he received for the Presbyterian Church in Canada, title to an acre from Oscar Hooey of Rice Lake, Wisconsin on which to build a church. This never materialized however. The land is part of the Mannerfeldt holdings now. Rev. R. Sinclair, Rev. John Hart and Rev. Ian McSween followed Mr. Stevens as Presbyterian ministers in Centerville.

Very early in 1937, Budd and Laura adopted Joan Marie Hazen. The legal procedure was managed by L. M. Colpitts, a long time lawyer at Sylvan Lake. So, Joan became Joan Marion Fitch, their daughter. Joan was a happy versatile little person and a real helper inside and



Budd, Laura and Joan.

outside. She milked etc., and could always get the pump engine to go when it balked (invariably) in Budd's absence.

After Budd and Laura sold the N.W. ¼ 26-37-2-5 to Walter Milne, they had the Scokdopole outfit clear a large portion of S.W. ¼ 35-37-2-5 and pile the poplars which fell like grass before the cutter. Later Fred Grimson as well as John Elliott broke this land. Then came root picking. **Ronnie** Pasicka had joined their family by then as a foster son. Budd, Ronnie and Laura would take lunch, the steel-wheeled John Deere and a wagon and box and go at the roots. En route home from school, Joan took Ronnie with her, milked, chored, and had supper ready for Budd and Laura when they arrived later, weary and dirty. There was new land for wheat that spring.

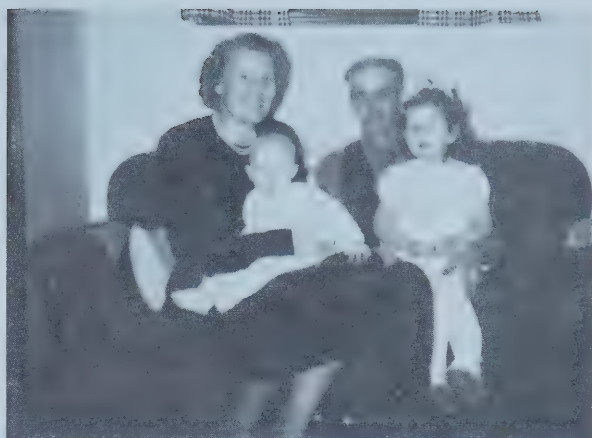
In haying, Laura raked, and sometimes mowed. Budd cocked the hay in chocolate drop mounds, later hauling it to stack by the barn. He usually hired help to stack; quite often Bennie Krause. Stooking help was often hired though Budd was deft with a fork and could make good time when sheaves were wet, or grain too damp to run the binder.

Budd fixed up a one-man control, sitting on the horse binder from where he steered the tractor. Later a power binder replaced the one manufactured for horse power.

In 1948 changes came. Budd and Laura acquired another daughter, **Angeline Clara** — Joan entered training in Calgary for a Certified Aide's Certificate. This she



Budd Fitch, one man control.



Budd, Laura and daughters, Angeline and Catherine.

attained early in 1949. Budd also bought an Anderson Pipe Line Milker as his milking helpers were elsewhere engaged.

1950 brought them their third daughter, **Catherine Ellen**. Joan married Ronald Toppin and Budd and Laura became the grandparents of Lorena and Budd.

With Budd's sudden passing in 1954, Laura was confronted with doing the best with what she had.

In 1955, Laura's Uncle Allan Dreyer came to help on the farm and gave the girls and Laura a real boost. He was never idle, he could do anything and everything it seemed. In 1956 he accepted a position at the Royal Canadian Air Force Base at Penhold, but still came to the farm in his spare time. Incidentally, this territory was a training area for N.A.T.O. personnel. This meant many planes zoomed and cavorted overhead. Uncle Allan, who had been through World Wars I and II was never quite relaxed with the aircraft overhead.

Angeline attended the second Centerville school for two years, riding in good weather with the Russell Fitch boys in their Model A Ford. It was maneuvered skillfully around the trees and across the fields with never a mishap. One time the motor balked and the two older boys pushed it all the way home with Ange, age 7 or 8, steering. Farmers' ingenuity comes early. In winter the Fitch boys rode harnessed work horses to get through the deep snow drifts. The harness was to hang onto on the backs of those rounded, well fed animals. Fortunately Angeline was allowed to be a passenger too.

In 1956 big changes came. The rural school closed. Their often impassable road got a coat of gravel and the girls then boarded a yellow school bus at the gate. R. W. Fitch was the bus driver. The destination was Sylvan Lake. When snow storms and blizzards filled the roads, a County of Red Deer snow plow could be expected to liberate the community.

Laura raised many pigs, cows and a quantity of poultry through the years. Also made good use of the Pipeline Milker.

Now, Angeline is in her third year as Assistant Supervisor of Special Education for the School Division of Three Hills travelling to twelve schools.

Catherine is a Registered Nurse in her fifth year on the staff of the Red Deer General Hospital. In 1974 she was united in marriage with Russell L. Hardy. He is a

Captain in the Armed Forces. They have a mobile home on the home farm S.W.¼ 35-37-2-5, where Laura continues to live also.

Joan lives at Golden, B.C. with her husband Ronald Toppin, and children; Roy, Nina, Betty and Bertha. Joan is full-time on staff of the Golden Hospital.

Ronald Pasicka lives in Calgary with his wife Marie and their three children.

BIOGRAPHY OF THE DAN FITCH FAMILY — as told by Mrs. Dan Fitch

Dan and I are local products. Dan was born and raised in Centerville, I in Kuusamo. We were married in Red Deer on August 11, 1934, and came to our new home on N.E. 35-37 on August 13. There for the next 38 years in the tradition of the U.S. mail, "Neither rain, nor sleet nor gloom of night" kept us from milking the cows, slopping the hogs and in other ways making a sometimes precarious living. Besides the brand new house, our buildings consisted of some elderly granaries, a new straw barn and the usual wee house. As finances permitted other buildings were added. Electricity came in 1951. Our first phone was a part of the Centerville Mutual Telephone Company. In order to rouse Central at Sylvan Lake, you wound the crank violently; Central then connected you with your number. It worked very well. It was a party line and worked on the honor system. You weren't supposed to rubber on your neighbors. Dial phones followed. Wayne Kuores was the unsung hero of our phone system for many years, working in all sorts of weather to keep the lines and phones in order.

The home quarter N.E. 35-37 is C.P.R. land and had had other owners before being bought by Dan's father,



Dan Fitch, pulling stumps.

the late John S. Fitch, and then by us. We later acquired N.W. 35-37 which had been owned at various times by Paul B. Fitch, Clarence Fitch, R. Higginson, Charles Hazen, Carl Englund. We also bought a part of S.E. 35-37. A portion of this quarter had been donated by Dan's father in 1903 for the Centerville School site.

For several years we farmed entirely with horses. Dan's father owned a steamer and a threshing machine. With wood as fuel, the steamer provided cheap power for the heavier jobs of threshing, stump pulling, breaking land and sawing lumber. Dan has his engineer's papers and ran the outfit. In threshing time his day began at 4 a.m. when he went out to fire up. My day began at the same time with chores, three meals and two lunches. It was necessary to get with it and stay at it until midnight. Threshing crews were mostly neighbors. Outside help was hired only when necessary. I remember one very fat man who worked for a few days driving a bundle team. He was a "green horn" with horses. One day his team ran away and headed for home with him in hot pursuit, yelling all the way. The horses tried to get in the barn, wagon and all. It was a disaster. Luckily it rained and he left. Jim Brown (the yodelling bundle heaver) now is sports announcer for C.F.C.W. Camrose was with us for several seasons. He could be heard singing and yodelling above the clatter of the wagon as he headed for work.

Winter saw community wood sawing bees. There was only one way to avert an energy crisis. Get up wood and saw and split it. I remember only one accident when Howard Thompson lost a finger.

The change to mechanized farming came gradually. We bought our first tractor in 1938, a John Deere. Unrefined cheap gas was hauled by the barrel from Turner Valley. It had a smell all its own. We could always tell when a chinook was coming because of the aroma of Turner Valley gas in the air. At first only the actual field work was done with the tractor, then as the old horses were pensioned off, it became a full time mechanized operation. I believe the final operation to be converted to tractor power was cutting grain. Stooking was still a manual art requiring if not a weak mind certainly a strong back. One dry year when the crop was very short, we used a header. This machine was pushed not pulled. It cut off the grain heads and raised them into racks. Bob Butler with his mules ran the header. By this



Dan and Millie Fitch.

time threshing was a family affair. Men were hard to get and Bud and Dan threshed alone. It was hard slow work, bring in a load, thresh it, stop the outfit and go out for another load. Another machine that took some of the work out of harvesting was a stook loader. It had an elevator which loaded the stooks into specially built racks.

In the fall of 1950 the snow came early and our wheat was left unthreshed. In the spring the fields were alive with mice. The biggest mice I have ever seen. They were also the boldest. As you walked through the field, they would take up a boxer's position as if challenging you to a fight.

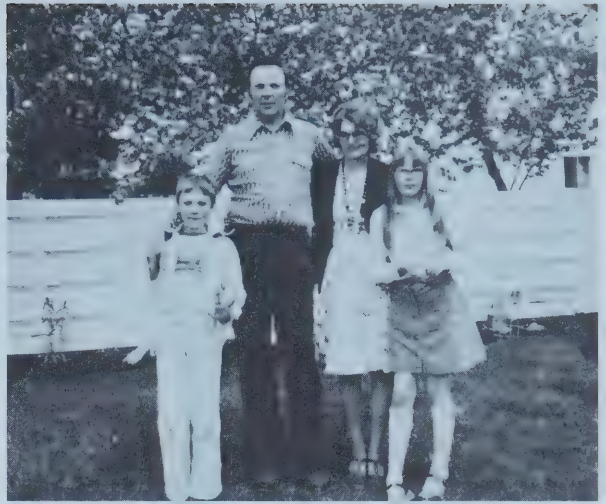
I believe we were the last in the district to raise Garnet Wheat. We found it a sure cropper but it was finally graded so low it wasn't economical to raise.

Cattle weren't raised just for beef, every cow that produced a calf was milked regardless of her disposition. The milk was separated, the cream sold and the skim milk fed on the farm. Those cream cheques were our lifeline. Our first can of cream skimmed by hand brought us a \$2.00 advance. Next spring when we began shipping again, we owed Charlie Palmer \$1.25. Our efforts had netted us 75c. Our straw barn, very comfortable in winter had a permanent drip in summer so we milked out in the wide open spaces. Mostly the cows were very co-operative. Many of them I remember with great affection. The pail fed calves became great pets and it was a sad day when they were sent to market. Vaccination for cattle wasn't being done as it is now. We lost our whole first calf crop with black-leg.

Chickens and pigs were a must in the battle for survival. The chickens were my department. Broody hens took care of chick raising for many years. Some old cluck would appear with a brood of chickens at almost any time of the year. When we began buying hatchery chicks, they had to be kept warm by artificial means. We had no brooder house so they spent their early days in a big tin tub in the kitchen with a hot water bottle for a mother. When the tub became too small, they graduated to an unused granary until fall then to the hen house where they were expected to produce 7c a dozen eggs.

The war for us seemed rather far away. We had no radio and few papers. We didn't know it was over till we drove past Bell's and saw the flag flying over their house. I was Secretary of the Ladies Aid at the time and sent gift parcels to the local boys. We helped with the "Milk for Britain" fund and other projects. As a family, we bought Victory Bonds as funds permitted, saved paper which was stored in the school barn and never collected and did without what we couldn't buy. We had lived through a depression and were well able to cope with war-time restrictions. Wartime Christmas was meager for the children — even a rubber ball was hard to find. The best toy at our place was a wooden steamer made by the late Margaret Thompson's father. It had spools for pulleys and smokestack and wheels sawed from a round piece of wood. It was painted red; it was beautiful.

The highlight of the winter season was the Christmas concert with a part for all. Even during the war there were treats for the children. School ended with a picnic first at Holmgrens and then on the school grounds with always a men's baseball game — generally Centerville versus Burnt Lake. We were very baseball minded and



Gordon Fitch and family.

games with other districts were as hotly contested as the World Series. Among those playing were Dan Fitch, Ed and Ollie Bystrom, Carl Bergstrom, Walter Milne, Ron and Gordon Moore. When soft ball became popular our younger sets had good teams: Fitches, Hollands, Heths, Bystroms, Mannerfeldts, Krauses, Hilmans. In 1959 they played at a Ball Tournament at Crammond and won the championship over several teams including one from the Bowden Institute.

It was in 1934 that the community began a custom which they still follow, of honoring their young men on their marriage. I believe Dan and I, Verbell and Bernard Thompson were the first to be so honored. The party was held at Dan's former house.

Our farming days came to an abrupt end when Dan had a heart attack in 1966. We continued living on the farm and raising a few cattle. Melvin Wells rented the land. In 1971 Dan had a stroke and in 1972 our older son took over the farm and we retired to Sylvan Lake.

We have a family of two boys, **Gordon** born Dec. 28, 1938, and **Lorne** born May 19, 1950. Gordon took his first nine years of schooling at the "Little Red School House" in Centerville and completed his high school at the Composite in Red Deer. He with many other young farm people stayed at the dorm. After graduation he trained at the Provincial Training School in Red Deer. He is now a supervisor there. In 1963 he married Margaret Bjornson of Markerville. Margaret is a registered nurse. They have two children, Melanie born Nov. 9, 1965 and Gregory born May 26, 1968.

Lorne began school at Sylvan Lake in 1956, the year we became centralized, and the big yellow school buses became a familiar sight on the roads. After graduation from Sylvan, he attended Red Deer College and the University of Calgary. He has his B.Sc. in Zoology and Geography and is employed as Fisheries Biologist at Lethbridge. He married Maureen Muldowney of Rockyford in 1972. Maureen has business education and is employed by B. & H. Homes of Lethbridge.

It is impossible in a few pages to recapture forty odd years of living, but it has brought back many memories; some sad, but most of them happy. Memories of



Lorne Fitch and wife Maureen.

neighbors who helped us along the way and perhaps to whom it was our privilege to extend a helping hand.

BIOGRAPHY OF AURA MAIE "FITCH" HAZEN — as told by Jessie Hazen Hoare

Aura Mae Fitch, the eldest daughter of John S. and Ida Ellen Fitch, was born at Butte, Nebraska, on April 16, 1898. She came to Alberta with her parents as a small child where they settled in the Centerville District.

In 1915 Aura married Charles Hazen at Stavely, Alberta. She passed away on May 30, 1935.

During their 20 years of married life, the Hazens lived in the Centerville and Pine Hill districts and a short time at Caroline. The last years operating a farm owned by Aura's father.

The Hazen's family consisted of five boys and four girls. Listed herewith:

Theodore, who married Dorothy Gream in October, 1941. Their family consisted of five boys and three girls. At present Theodore lives at Kegisville where he does mechanical work.

Ellen married Alvin Parker in 1934. They lived in the Pine Hill district until Alvin joined the Army and went overseas. After being discharged, the Parkers settled on a farm near Condor where they remained until retiring at Spruce Grove near Edmonton. There are five sons in the family.

Dick was born May 8, 1919. He served in the Canadian Army during the Second War. After being discharged from the forces he married Marion Lepine. Dick worked at road construction near Renfrew where they lived for a time. Dick and Marion's home is now near Douglas, Ontario. They have a family of four boys and four girls.

Frank was born November 13, 1920. He died May 10, 1941. Frank spent his entire life in the Centerville district.

Gene was born July 21, 1924. He also served in the Canadian Army. After the war Gene took up the bricklaying trade but after several years he developed



Aura "Fitch" Hazen and husband Charles.



Some Hazen children.

mortor poisoning so went into cabinet building. On October 14, 1950, Gene married Beryl Mousseau. They have three sons and one daughter. They are now living near Kingston, Ontario.

Jessie was born April 19, 1928. After her mother's death in 1935 she stayed with her grandparents until they both passed away. She then moved to Caroline and lived with an aunt. In 1945 Jessie married Edward Hoare. They farmed in the Caroline area until 1968. At this time they held an auction sale and moved to Innisfail where they still reside and operate a filling station. The Hoare family consists of three girls.

Joan was born July 8, 1930. After her mother's death she was adopted by her uncle Budd Fitch and will be listed with his family.

Harold was born May 17, 1932, and was adopted by the Thomas Thompsons. He lived with the Thompsons until they moved to Nebraska in early 19 . Harold died August 17, 1951.

Iona was born June 7, 1934. Her older sister Ellen cared for her for several years, after which she spent some time with the Olav Selauds. Iona later moved back to Caroline to stay with her sister. On May 25, 1952, she

was married to John Roper. They have a family of three boys and three girls. They have a farm at Caroline and still live there.

EDWIN E. FITCH — by George Fitch

Edwin E. Fitch, son of Adoniran Fitch and brother of John Surdam Fitch, was born in Jones County, Iowa June 1, 1869 and died in Montana in the early thirties.

Ed moved to the Centerville district about 1905 and settled on the N.W. of Section 24-T. 37 - R. 2 where he and his family remained until March of 1914.

Ed had four step-children and one son, **Ernest**, by a previous marriage. Names of the step-children were; **Jennie, John, May and Bennett**. Ed and his wife Mary, and family settled north of Havre, Montana in 1914 where they homesteaded and founded the little village of Simpson where they dwelt the remainder of their lives.

BIOGRAPHY OF ORSON DAVID FITCH — written by George Fitch

Orson David Fitch was born at Richmond in Tioga County, New York, on September 8, 1847. He was the eldest son of John S. Fitch and Maria (Moore) Fitch. It may be of interest to note he was of the sixth generation from Rev. James Fitch who settled in Connecticut in 1638, also the thirteenth generation from William Fitch of the Manor of Wicken, and Widdington, County of Essex, England, whose death was reported at Court of the Manor Widdington held 24 April, 1945: this William Fitch is definitely placed by the College of Arms as being a direct and proven ancestor of the American branch of the Family.

Mr. Fitch grew up in the Richford area and received some college education at Cornell College at Ithaca, New York.

He joined the Union Army during the Civil War but because of his age never saw active service.

On March 7, 1867, he married Delia Ruth Clark. She was born at Caroline Center, New York, on July 18, 1850, and died March 13, 1918, while on a visit to the old home. Burial was in the Caroline Grove Cemetery, Brooktondale, N.Y. Delia's father, John Clark, had a farm west of town on the "Catskill Turnpike".

In the spring of 1869 Mr. and Mrs. Fitch with Mr. Fitch's brother Hubert John disposed of their property in New York and headed west. They stayed about a year at Olin, Iowa, but in the spring of 1870 again with a prairie schooner followed the wagon train westward. They homesteaded near Central City, Polk County, Nebraska.

The Fitch brothers, Orson D., and Hubert J., left the Nebraska homestead in 1879 and opened a hardware business in Fullerton, Nebraska. However, due to crop failures and large credit accounts the business failed four years later and Orson D. took work as a traveller for the International Harvester Company. He continued with this work for a period of twelve years.

The "County Official" under date of October, 1881 mentions O. D. Fitch as being a member of the Faculty of the "Nebraskan Wesleyan University."

In 1891 the O. D. Fitch family with H.J. returned to farm life in Nebraska and Kansas.

In February of 1903 Mr. Fitch came to Canada and homesteaded the S.E.¼ of Sec. 2, T. 38, R. 2, W. 5 in what later became the province of Alberta.



Fitches, July 4, 1899. Mrs. Orson David Fitch, Paul, Leonard, Mr. Orson David Fitch, Maybelle, Clarence, Hubert J., Lewis. (Chapter VIII)

Fitch family picnic in Nebraska, July 4, 1899.

We should mention here that a cousin of O. D. Fitch had settled in the vicinity in the spring of 1900 and his brother H.J. and one son Clarence H. in 1902.

Mr. Fitch brought two car loads of settlers' effects which were unloaded at Red Deer. Among the horses was a young Percheron stallion which left a good account of himself in the district.

The log house on the homestead served during the summer of 1903 for Mr. and Mrs. Fitch, their two unmarried sons and one married son and family.

We should mention here that O. D. Fitch was generally referred to as "Mr. O.D." and the sons by their first names.

The first year was especially hard for the Fitch's. The little money they had slipped steadily away and there was no income. The first winter the men folk went to the bush to cut saw logs for lumber. Here we must explain that each homesteader was allowed to cut enough logs on crown land to make 6,000 board feet of lumber to be used for building purposes. This the settlers called their "patent lumber". The settler could also arrange with the mill operator to cut another 6,000 to pay for getting his own sawed.

The summers were spent clearing and breaking land and gathering wild hay which grew on unsettled land



Orson D. Fitch homestead in Alberta. Taken about 1906. (Chapter VIII)

O. D. Fitch homestead 1906. George Fitch in doorway.



O. D. and H. J. Fitch with sister, Aug. 1911.

along the Medicine River Valley. Breaking land was a heartbreaking task for men accustomed to prairie life. The equipment of those days was very inefficient by present day standards. Threshing was also a problem. Since few machines were available the grain was stacked and often not threshed till well into the winter. Various steam driven outfits were operated by various ones, Fred Munro of Innisfail, Jerry Sills of Ridgewood and Amos Smith more locally.

The year 1903 saw all available homesteads in the area taken and with the country thus settled, the need of a school was seen. Land was donated by Mr. Fitch's cousin, J. S. Fitch. Each settler came with some of his "Patent Lumber" and a rough building was constructed. Thus we have the beginning of the Centerville School District No. 791.

Mr. Fitch remained on the farm until November of 1912. At that time he called an auction sale and disposed of his stock and machinery. Here it must be mentioned that in those years farm sales were credit rather than cash. The folly of this was later recognized as a large number of accounts were never collected. This Mr. Fitch experienced; more than half was never paid. As a result and losing rather heavily on an investment in Red Deer, he was forced to return to the farm after a year in Red Deer.

In the spring of 1914 "Mr. O.D." traded his farm for land near Leslieville where his youngest son, Lewis J. had homesteaded three years before. This was rather a hard experience for Mrs. Fitch as her health was not good and it presented the problem of being separated from most of the family as well as making new friends.

In December of 1917 Mr. and Mrs. Fitch made a trip back to their old home in New York where Mrs. Fitch died and was buried.

After the death of his wife Mr. Fitch returned to Alberta where he spent the remaining sixteen years of his

life. He passed away at the home of his granddaughter "Mrs. Delia Pauline Fitch Bystrom", on February 12, 1934, and was buried at Sylvan Lake. His was a long and eventful life. Surely in the eyes of all who knew him, none could say other than, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant."

Children of Mr. and Mrs. O. D. Fitch:

I Alice Amanda, born December 23, 1867, D Nov. 1873.

II Albert Henry — B. Olin, Iowa, Jan. 12, 1870, D. Apr. 8, 1954.

III Earl Burdette — B. Central City, Neb., July 19, 1875, D. Jan. 3, 1950.

IV Paul B. — B. Nov. 3, 1877, Central City, Neb. D. Apr. 18, 1931.

V Robert G. — B. Mar. 30, 1880, D. Nov. 5, 1884.

VI Clarence H. — B. Feb. 2, 1883, D. March 7, 1973.

VII Orson D. — B. Nov. 22, 1887, D. Feb. 27, 1888.

VIII Lewis J. — B. Sept. 6, 1892, Living 1977 at Rocky Mountain House.

BIOGRAPHY OF ALBERT HENRY FITCH — written by George Fitch

Albert Henry Fitch, son of Mr. and Mrs. O. D. Fitch was born at Olin, Jones County, Iowa, January 12, 1870, and died April 8, 1954.

Henry was a jeweller by trade and an accomplished musician having for a time been associated with the famous Sousa Band.

In 1895 he was united by marriage with Mabelle Louise Miles. There were two sons. They migrated to Alberta shortly after their parents but did not homestead. Henry did purchase the N.E.¼ of Sec. 2, T. 38, R. 2, which had been homesteaded by his brother Paul. This land he kept for several years then traded it for a business in Nebraska.

Henry operated a store first in Wetaskiwin later at High River. The family returned to Nebraska in 1907.

Descendants still reside in the U.S.A.

PAUL BENJAMIN FITCH — by George Fitch

Paul Benjamin Fitch, son of Orson David and Delia Ruth Fitch, was born on the homestead in Nebraska, November 3, 1877. He followed the Fitch family to Alberta in 1904. On April 29, 1904, Paul married Geneva Patrick. He was a Pharmacist by trade.

Paul homesteaded the N.E.¼ of 2-T.-38-R. 2 which he sold to his eldest brother then purchased the N.W.¼ of 35-37-2 where he lived while in Alberta.

Paul and "Neva" raised four children: Cecil Clark, Ruth Alberta, Alice Josephine and Mabelle Pauline.

The Paul B. Fitch family returned to Omaha, Nebraska in 1915.

CLARENCE HUBERT FITCH — by George Fitch

Clarence Hubert Fitch, son of Orson David and Delia Ruth Fitch, was born in Fullerton, Nebraska on February 2, 1883.

In November, 1902 Clarence came to Alberta and homesteaded the S.W.¼ of Section 36-T. 37 -R. 2. Five years later he married Jennie Wynne and they built a small house on the homestead across the road from the Centerville school house.

During the early years, Clarence had a small gas engine and during the winter months cut wood and crushed grain for the settlers throughout the area.

Clarence left the farm in November of 1912 and spent several years in various parts of the United States returning in 1916 after which he farmed with his uncle H. J. Fitch until 1920 then settled on a farm north of Condor. He also operated a repair shop in the village.

During the Second World War he worked as a metal instructor for the Canadian Army in Calgary.

Jennie died November 10, 1966 and Clarence March 7, 1973. They have eight children: **Ruth Ellen, Carlton Wynne, Clarence Hubert, Vernon William, Arthur Harlan, Edward Orson, Jennie Mae and Cecil John.**

LEWIS JOHN FITCH — by George Fitch

Lewis John Fitch, youngest son of Orson David and Delia Ruth Fitch was born in Nance County, Nebraska, September 6, 1892.

Lewis came to Alberta with the family in 1903 where he lived at home until 1910 at that time taking a homestead north of Leslieville.

Lewis and his parents spent 1913 in Red Deer, but in the spring of 1914 they moved to the homestead at Leslieville.

On May 17, 1915 Lewis married Theresa Brown of Eckville. They spent several years on the farm, finally retiring at Rocky Mountain House where Theresa passed away January 11, 1976. Lewis still resides at Rocky Mountain House.

There are five children: **Clara Marie, Lauretta Eliza, Olive Louise, Hubert Ralph and Delphine Lois.**

BIOGRAPHY OF EARL BURDETTE FITCH — written by George Fitch

Earl Burdette Fitch, the second son of Orson David Fitch, was born in Polk County, Nebraska, near Central City, on July 19, 1875. The family at that time was living in a sod house on the homestead.



E. B. and Edith Fitch, 1947.

When Earl was four years old the family moved to Fullerton, Nebraska, where they remained until he was sixteen, after which they returned to farm life. Due to difficult years and the fact that they were tenant farmers, they moved to southeastern Kansas about 1897, where they remained for two or three years before returning to Nance County, Nebraska.

While the Fitch's were in Kansas, Earl married Edith Marie Baugh on January 18, 1898. Edith was the daughter of G. M. Baugh of Pleasanton, Kansas. She was born in the Green Valley District of Linn County on July 26, 1875. The young couple lived on Edith's grandfather's farm during the summer of 1899 after which they followed the rest of the Fitch family back to Nance County, Nebraska.

Earl and his Uncle Hubert J. farmed in partnership for two years at Belgrade in Nance County then in the spring of 1902 Hubert left for Alberta to spy out the land. The report being favorable all members of the O. D. Fitch family followed during the next two or three years.

The summer of 1903 found all members of the O. D. Fitch family together in the log house of O.D. During the summer a log cabin was built on the homestead of Hubert J. Fitch, this being the S.W. ¼ Sec. 2, T. 28, R. 2, W. 5. Earl's family lived here with Uncle Hubert until the following year when a house was built on Earl's homestead, N.E. Sec. 34, T. 37, R. 2. This house still stands and is probably the only original building which has been in use until near the present time.

As has been previously stated, the first years were very difficult and at times the bare necessities were hard to come by. However, as has been said, misery likes company. Truly, the neighbors were all much in the same boat. There was a spirit of unity among one and all.

It should be mentioned here the Fitch family found life in central Alberta much different from that of Nebraska. They had grown up in a plains country and the bush here presented a real problem to those unused to such work as clearing it away and breaking the virgin sod with three horses on a fourteen inch plow. Then again gathering feed for winter, all hand work, between heavy showers and swarms of mosquitoes, the long cold winters, the poorly constructed houses with the wood fires which needed almost continual tending. Many true



15-27 John Deere purchased by E. B. Fitch Oct. 1925. First of this model sold out of Red Deer.

experiences could be related which the present generation would probably be tempted to doubt.

Mr. and Mrs. E. B. Fitch contributed generously to the community life in the pioneer days. Mrs. Fitch with Mrs. Horton Wilcox were chiefly responsible for the organization of the first Sunday School which through the efforts of various ones was carried on almost continuously for more than sixty years.

Central Alberta of today is reaping the harvest of what the pioneers sowed more than seventy years ago. Let us of today give honour and respect to the courage of the homesteader, regardless of his nationality, race, or creed.

Earl B. and Edith Fitch lived on the Alberta homestead the remaining years of their lives. They worked hard and raised their family. It must be said they achieved a measure of prosperity in spite of many difficult years.

Earl B. died January 3, 1950, and Edith two years previously on April 22, 1948.

We recall over sixty-five years ago the Manager of the Bank of Commerce in Red Deer stated the Fitch's were all on easy street. He nicknamed the area "Fitch Ridge".

Children of Earl B. and Edith Fitch; Orson "George", biography follows; **Delia Pauline**, married J. B. Bystrom; **Mina Elizabeth**, married A. E. Fearey, short account to follow; **Guy Robert**, biography follows; **Russell W.**, biography follows.

MINA ELIZABETH FITCH — by George Fitch

Mina, the third child of Earl B. and Edith Fitch, was born at Belgrade in Nance County, Nebraska, February 19, 1903. She came with her parents to Centerville the following April where she spent her early years. She married Albert E. Feary. Albert's life work was with the Alberta Government Telephone Co. from which he retired in 1965 as General Manager of Construction for the entire province of Alberta. They spent their married life in Calgary. Bert is now deceased.

Mina and Bert have five children: **Albert E.**, **Elsie "Audrey"**, **Joyce Pauline**, **Murray Percy** and **Gordon Robert**.

RUSSELL W. FITCH — written by George Fitch

Russell W. Fitch, the youngest of the children of Earl B. and Edith Fitch, was born June 24, 1911, at the farm home in Centerville.

Russell has spent his entire life in the district and is a farmer. He resides on the S.W. of 34-37-2-W. 5.

On June 29, 1938 Russell married Aural Rick of Bentley. They had seven children as listed:

I. **Amy Doreen**, born May 31, 1939. She married Morley Schafer on June 4, 1959. Their children are: Robert Morley, born September 6, 1960; Jacqueline Ann, born October 5, 1963 and Loren James, born December 12, 1965.

II. **Charles "Leo"**, born July 2, 1940. Leo farms with his father.

III. **Mervin Mitchell**, born August 21, 1941. After graduating from Canadian Union College he married Jean Dalrymple on August 18, 1963. They live at College Heights, Alberta where Mervin is employed at the Parkland Furniture Factory. They have three children: Jeannette Louise, born September 17, 1964; Margery



Russell and Aural Fitch.



R. W. Fitch family.

Lenore, born March 17, 1966 and Morgan Edward, born January 18, 1970.

IV. **Raymond Russell**, born May 6, 1945. He died April 2, 1956 following a heart operation at the University Hospital in Edmonton.

V. **Paul Eugene**, born May 30, 1947. Paul farms in partnership with his father and brother Leo.

VI. **Herbert Hugh Fitch**, born August 4, 1949. He married Debbie Johanson. They have one child, Trudy Lynn, born June 17, 1973.

VII. **Alberta Aural**, born January 6, 1951. Alberta took nurses training at the Red Deer College and is at present employed at the hospital in Drumheller. She married Don Urlacher on November 29, 1975.

HUBERT JOHN FITCH — written by George Fitch

Hubert John Fitch was one of the early settlers in the Centerville District.

"Uncle Hubert" as he was commonly known locally, was born in Richford, N.Y., October 31, 1853. He was a brother of Orson David Fitch and cousin of John Sudham Fitch.

"Uncle Hubert" homesteaded in Nebraska in the early eighteen seventies, his years in Nebraska were spent in farming and a hardware partnership with his brother.

In the spring of 1902 Uncle Hubert came to Alberta then known as the Northwest Territories and homesteaded the S.W. of 2-T. 38 - R. 2, which was later a part of the Centerville District.

He remained a bachelor all his life. He was of a kindly nature and had a wide circle of friends and was well respected by all who knew him.

Uncle Hubert spent his last days at the home of his niece, Mrs. J. B. Bystrom. He passed away December 16, 1936 and is buried at Sylvan Lake.

GEORGE FITCH AND FAMILY — by George Fitch

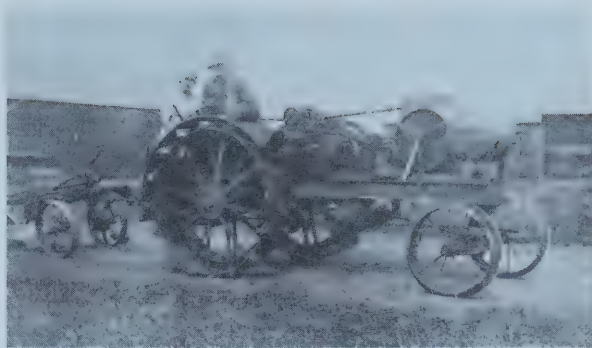
Orson "George" Fitch, son of Earl B. and Edith Fitch was born at Pleasanton, Linn County, Kansas, September 7, 1899. In the autumn of that year the family left for Nebraska and settled on a farm at Belgrade in Nance County.

Early in the century rumours of opportunities to be had in Western Canada caused many of the Fitchs to look in that direction and as a result George's parents were on their way to Red Deer with a carload of settlers' effects in April of 1903.

George grew up on his father's homestead in what became known as the Centerville District where his brothers and sisters along with George received their elementary education with some advanced subjects as well. There was work to be done on the farm both before and after school and during the summer holidays it was anything but a holiday.

During the winters of 1918 to 1920 George fed a bunch of cattle in the Leslieville district and batched. This was thirty-five miles from home. The cattle were driven out each winter and back in the spring. On many occasions the snow was deep and the weather far below zero on the drive.

In November of 1921, he settled on his present location (East ½ of 1-T.38-R. 2) where his brother Guy, and sister Delia, carried on for several years. Here it should be stated that the above land had been purchased in the spring at a price of \$14,400.00, all borrowed money. The



George and Delia Fitch on Waterloo Boy, 1923.

first crop was very light and totally lost by hail in 1927. Then with the hungry thirties the reader can visualize that most of a life-time was spent before the debt was finally retired.

In August of 1929 George took work with the local municipality as "Cat Skinner" and continued with this work during the summer seasons for a period of fourteen years. The rate of pay was \$.50 per hour on the job, maintenance on his own time. George acted as timekeeper and the last three years as foreman of the small crew. During the winter of 1942 and 1943, George snow-plowed with the blade grader. This was the first time an effort was made to keep the roads open for cars in winter.

On November 5, 1930 George married Madge Einarson of Burnt Lake. Madge was born in Iceland, May 20, 1906 and came to Alberta in August of 1915 with her widowed mother. Previous to this marriage Madge taught school for four years.

During the first years of their married life while George was away most of the summer, Madge carried on alone at home, milking cows, feeding pigs, tending gardens and caring for their four children. She managed her work and still found time to take part in the activities of the Local Women's Club.

Hard work was the order of the day as all know who passed through the thirties. In many respects those years were almost as bare as the first five years in the present century.

In 1962 George started geneological research on the origin of the Fitch family and in 1971 got a book published on his findings entitled "The House of Fitch".



George Fitch threshing Einar Einarsons stook-loader, 1953.



George and Madge Fitch with family.

George can say it was a success as far as personal satisfaction is concerned, but financially quite the opposite.

In 1969 Madge and George disposed of most of their property and became semi-retired. They have visited much of the four western provinces as well as twenty of the states with their small travel trailer.

George and Madge have four children:

I. **George "Earl" Fitch** was born August 16, 1931. He took his education at the local school and one year at Canadian Union College at Lacombe. His ambition was to have a farm of his own so worked to that end. Earl spent ten years at Lamming Brothers' Mill near McBride, B.C., the last few years as head sawyer. While at the mill he met Ruby Kiehlbauch. They were married August 19, 1951. Earl and Ruby settled on the home farm in Centerville in 1958 where they still reside.

They have two children:

(a) **Garth L.** born at McBride, B.C. on December 27, 1954. Garth married Elaine Bennett June 23, 1974. They have two children: **Melanie LeeAnn** born April 24, 1975 and **Kelly Elaine** born December 17, 1976. At present they reside in Centerville.



Earl and Ruby Fitch granddaughter Melanie. Standing, Winnie, Elaine, Garth.

(b) **Winnifred Elaine**, born at McBride, B.C. on October 24, 1957. Winnie is living with her parents and works in Red Deer.

II. **Edith Margaret**, George and Madge's second child was born October 25, 1932. She took her education at Centerville, Canadian Union College, Walla Walla College, University of Alberta at both Calgary and Edmonton and also at Atlantic Union College, Massachussets. Edith is a school teacher.

III. **J. D. Victor**, their second son was born at home December 7, 1933. Victor has his degrees from Walla Walla College at Walla Walla, Washington and Western Washington State College, Bellingham, Washington. He is presently a member of the faculty at Walla Walla College, Washington. On August 25, 1958 Victor married Gem O'Brien. Gem graduated with an A.R.C.T. and double degree in solo performance and teaching. Presently she is employed at Walla Walla College and Whitman College at Walla Walla, Washington.

They have three children: **Lana Dawn**, born July 22, 1959. **Shaun Leigh**, born February 21, 1962 and **John David Victor**, born August 2, 1967.

IV. Their youngest child, **Alice Christine**, was born November 8, 1935.

Alice took her high school at Canadian Union College and has her A.R.C.T. degree in piano. On July 6, 1955 she married Clarence Wombold of Olds, Alberta. They reside on a farm at Olds.

They have four children: **LeRoy David**, born December 13, 1957, **Douglas James**, born January 31, 1959, **Glenn Dale**, born September 20, 1963 and **Richard George**, born April 7, 1972.

BIOGRAPHY OF GUY R. AND JENNIE FITCH — as told by Jennie Fitch

Guy Robert Fitch, the second son but the fourth child of Mr. and Mrs. Earl B. Fitch, was born June 28, 1904, in the Centerville district where he had lived most of his life. The two storey frame house, in which he was born, was built of rough boards and tar paper with a shingled roof. It is located on quarter section N.E. 34-37-2-W. 5 and it still stands today.

Guy took his schooling at Centerville completing grade ten taught by his older sister Delia, now Mrs. Bernard Bystrom. In the fall of 1919 he went to Red Deer to take grade eleven but homesickness and town life didn't appeal to a country boy and in a month he was home on the farm.

In those pioneering years there wasn't sewerage but a little outhouse or "toilet" was used. At the age of four years Guy thought the "plumbing" was getting rather clogged so he lit a paper and dropped it into the hole. Consequently he cleaned more than the plumbing because the building also burned. Mrs. Fitch saw the fire and naturally thinking Guy was in the building rushed in to save him and was quite badly burned. The "plumber" was frightened and hid in a corner of the yard fence which wasn't built straight but was zig-zagged. It was 3 feet high and made of tree rails, criss-crossed at the corners hence it did not require any posts or nails.

In 1916 Guy and his sister, Mina, showed five-month old Berkshire gilts at the Red Deer Swine Show. The pens were located where the present Star Cafe, McLevin Blacksmith Shop, Welsh's Saddlery and Bus Depot now



Guy and Jennie Fitch with daughter Marie.

stand. He took second prize and Mina, third. The prizes were ribbons. They had to leave from home at 5:00 a.m. with team and wagon after doing some chores, and got home at 11:30 p.m. to again do chores. There were no quick truck deliveries.

In the summer of 1924 the first graded road between sections 36 and 1 of townships 37 and 38, range 2, W. 5 was done with a "Russell Special Grader" operated by Mr. Oscar Selstrom, from the Burnt Lake District, and pulled by three four-horse teams driven by Guy. The trees had been cut with an axe so the solid stumps caused quite an impact when hit by the grader blade making it very difficult to stay "atop" the machine. It took one week to complete a mile of road. Guy was credited \$12.00 a day for the twelve horses and himself. This wasn't paid to him but was applied on the taxes. In 1975, fifty-one years later, this road was paved.

Guy always a lover of draft horses, especially Percherons, in 1928 borrowed two sets of brass mounted harnesses from the Valli Brothers of the Marianne district. He entered a tandem four-horse and a two-horse team at the Benalto Fair and placed second in both classes. The prizes were \$15.00 per entry. That day he was offered, by Tom Sigurdson of Pine Hill, \$400.00 for the lead team. This was a very good offer but Guy kept his horses.

At the age of fourteen years Guy started his "threshing days", without wages, as a spike pitcher from stacks. Later he was a "water monkey" for a steam outfit. He was paid \$5.00 a day for himself and a team, starting at 6:00 a.m. and working until 7:30 p.m. Twice a week he got up at 2:00 a.m. to get an extra tank of water for the engineer to wash the boiler. There was no overtime pay. In 1925 his Dad bought a new Case separator at \$1,350.00 and Guy and his brother George started threshing. The old Waterloo tractor broke down so they bought a new John Deere, at \$1,075.00, from the agencies Kennedy and Fitzsimmons in Red Deer. Rather than delaying harvest, while waiting for the new tractor, the crew of six men with teams and racks hauled bundles from stooks which George and Guy stacked. In one day they stacked ninety-six loads, approximately 300 bundles per load. The stacks were later threshed when there was two feet of snow. Guy continued to operate a threshing

outfit for forty years and according to his records, which he still has, wages varied from 20c per hour a man in the early thirties to 75c in the sixties. Threshing season averaged from 25 to 40 days and covered 12 to 15 farms. In the early thirties Guy charged per bushel, 3c for oats, 4c for barley and 5c for wheat and he supplied the tractor, separator, crew of men and teams. In the sixties the crew dwindled down to two men, two women (wives without wages), a stook loader and two tractors.

Once while discussing early threshing days with his uncle, Lewis Fitch, Guy learned that Mr. Henry Clarkin threshed in this area with a small steamer outfit that couldn't move by its own power but was pulled from setting to setting with a four-horse team. The separator was hand fed, the bands cut by hand and the sheaves fed in small portions into the separator. The straw was stacked by hand and the grain was caught in sacks. Around the early twenties the boiler from this steamer was installed in the Sylvan Lake Creamery.

On December 22, 1934, Guy married Jennie Sylvia Riekki of the Kuusamo district. She is a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. S. A. Riekki and was born on August 3, 1908. Guy had bought the quarter section of S.W. 2-38-2-W. 5 from his great uncle, Hubert Fitch. He and Jennie made this their new home. Their only child, **Marie Rosetta**, was born in the Red Deer hospital on February 14, 1938. The first house they lived in was a single storey, 12' by 22', originally the homestead home built by Uncle Clarence Fitch on S.W. 36-37-2 across from the Centerville school. It was moved in 1917 with horses to the Hubert Fitch farm and used as a well house. Guy partitioned a bedroom, a walk-in clothes closet, a walk-in pantry and a kitchen. In July, Guy had been completely hauled out so money was scarce. That summer and fall, before they were married, Jennie had worked on a farm at Stavelly, Alberta, at \$20.00 a month. She kept house for a family of seven, did some chores and during harvest fed a big threshing crew. The mother was an invalid and unable to work. Guy and Jennie have often said how grateful they were for the set of silverware for six given as a wedding gift by the Centerville Community Club. Also for the miscellaneous shower for Jennie as well as the used cook stove and some furniture given by friends. Jennie's folks gave a set of dishes and a Jersey cow. How happy they were when Guy's folks covered the bare floors with linoleum and also gave another milk cow.

The following figures for 1938 are taken from Guy's records and show the change in prices. A new 10-foot McCormick Deering tandem leverless tractor disc harrow cost \$97.15, coal oil and gas 25c a gallon, men's rubber boots \$1.65, men's work shirts \$1.75, work gloves \$1.45, oxfords \$6.95, oats sold at 30c a bushel, barley 40c a bushel, timothy 4c a pound, wheat 51c a bushel and a funeral charge was \$145.00.

During the years 1940 to 1945 inclusive, Guy, Jennie and Marie lived on the Riekki farm helping to take care of Jennie's father and also farming the land. At this time Guy farmed seven quarters using a John Deere tractor bought in 1930 at \$1,260.00. It had steel wheels with lugs but didn't have lights nor a starter. Moving at nights or after a rain on the ungravelled roads was a real chore. In 1946 Guy bought a new John Deere tractor on rubber, with lights and a starter at \$1,800.00.

Guy and Jennie have always taken a keen interest in the life of the community. Guy was the first president of the Centerville Community Club which was organized in 1922 and has periodically held this office for some thirty years. This club since its inception has yearly sponsored Christmas concerts, candy bags, picnics, strawberry socials and given social evenings and gifts to the boys of the district when they married. They are very happy to see the present generation carrying on the community spirit.

In the fall of 1950 the Sylvan Rural Electrification Association was organized. Guy was elected president and continued for 25 consecutive years without a salary. He still is a board member.

Jennie is a member of the Community Club and the Centerville Women's Club. In the years 1971 and 1972 she won the high point trophy from the "Centerville Garden and Grain Club" donated by the Centerville Centennial Committee of the Community Club. Guy and Jennie are members of the Sylvan Lake Seventh-day Adventist Church and still continue to hold responsible offices.

Besides grain farming and cattle, for several years they raised up to 500 bronze turkeys and 500 chickens. In 1960, their best year, the toms averaged \$5.40 and also 30 pounds live weight. That same spring Miller's Champion Giant Broad Breasted bronze turkeys, mixed, were 80c a poult from the hatchery. Cornish Top Cross chicks, mixed, were \$16.90 per hundred. Guy and Jennie enjoyed having 60 ewes with lambs until coyotes forced them to sell. In 1961 lambs averaged \$12.80 a head.

GEORGE AND MARIE JOHANSON — written by Mrs. Marie Johanson

George and Marie Johanson built a house in 1967 on the N.E. 34-37-2-W. 5. The original homesteader on the farm was Earl Burdette Fitch, a grandfather of Marie. Although a new house has been built the same site was used and the fourth generation is now living there.

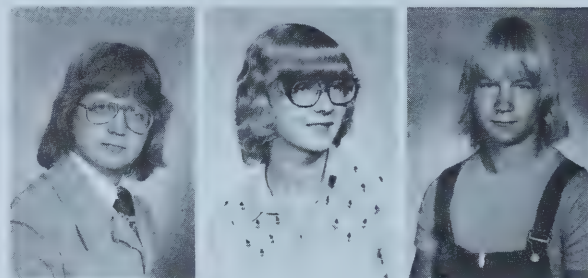
George Johanson is the second youngest son of Olga Johanson and the late John Johanson of the Burnt Lake District. He was born on March 18, 1937, in Red Deer, and attended the Burnt Lake School for grades one through eight. He took grade nine at Canadian Union College. For grades ten, eleven and twelve he attended Lindsay Thurber Comprehensive High School in Red Deer. He and Marie Fitch were married on August 29, 1957, at Canadian Union College.

Marie Fitch Johanson was born in Red Deer on February 14, 1938. She is the only child of Guy and Jennie Fitch of the Centerville District. She, with her parents, moved from Centerville to Kuusamo in 1940 and lived there on the S. A. Riecki farm until 1946 when they moved back to Centerville. S. A. Riecki was Marie's grandfather. Marie attended the Kuusamo School for grades one and two and completed grades three to nine at Centerville. She went to Canadian Union College for grades ten, eleven, and twelve and one year of college. During 1956-57 she attended the University of Alberta, Calgary, and studied Education. On August 29, 1957, she married George Johanson.

George and Marie have three children; Westley George, born in Red Deer on March 28, 1958; Wanda Marie, born in Red Deer on August 5, 1960, and David



George Johanson and wife Marie.



George Johanson children Westley, Wanda, David.

Allen born in Rocky Mountain House on February 12, 1962.

George attended the University of Alberta, Calgary, during 1959-1961 and studied Education. In 1961 George, Marie, Westley and Wanda moved to Rocky Mountain House. George taught in the Junior High School and Marie taught piano and voice lessons at home. Two years later the family, which now included David, moved to Condor. George was principal of the Elementary School there and also taught Math. in the Senior High School at David Thompson. Marie taught music at the Condor, Leslieville and David Thompson schools. During this time George attended night school in Red Deer and summer school in Edmonton.

The family moved to Calgary in the fall of 1964 and George attended the University of Calgary that winter. In 1965 they moved back to Rocky Mountain House. George taught Math. in the Senior High School and Marie taught piano and voice lessons at home, directed the Community Choir and was organist for the Lutheran Church. They were both actively involved in the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Rocky Mountain House. Marie studied voice with Gipsie Mahaffy at Sylvan Lake and Wanda studied violin and Westley cello with Miss Mahaffy. It was during this time that Marie received the Lacroix Trophy at the Red Deer Kiwanis Music Festival.

During the summer of 1967, George and Marie attended summer school in Calgary and began building a new home on the original Earl Fitch farm. They moved into the house in November and are living there at the present time. During their first winter on the farm, George, travelled twice a week to Calgary to attend night

school at the University. In 1968 he graduated with a B.Ed. from the University of Calgary.

George taught Math. in the Innisfail Senior and Junior High School from 1967 until February, 1973. During this time he was Department Head of the Math. and Science department from 1971-1973. In February, 1973, he transferred to the Sylvan Lake School and taught in the Junior High until 1976 when he moved into the Senior High School Math. program.

Marie began teaching grade five in the Sylvan Lake School in 1967, and in 1969 she began teaching the elementary music at the school. The students have been very active and successful in Music Festivals in Red Deer and Calgary. She and Mrs. Steffie Woima, a grade five teacher, have taken a Ukrainian Dance Group to numerous community functions plus the Red Deer Folk Festival and the Red Deer Fair.

Westley graduated from grade twelve in 1976 from Lindsay Thurber Comprehensive High School in Red Deer. That fall he attended Walla Walla College, Washington, in the Faculty of Engineering. He studied cello for six years.

Wanda has travelled, with her parents, to Calgary once a week since 1971 to study violin with Miss Mary Shortt. She also studied piano with Mrs. Shirley Andreeff at Sylvan Lake. In the fall of 1976, she moved to Canadian Union College and is continuing her high school education there.

David has been a member in the Benalto 4-H Beef Club and is still living at home and attending school at Sylvan Lake. He is an ardent skier and really enjoys our Rocky Mountains.

In the fall of 1972, George and Marie bought 20 cows and began a small farming operation along with their teaching. It was their goal to produce registered Maine-Anjou breeding stock and they have been working to achieve this. They rented one quarter of land from Carl Feitle in 1973 and in 1975 they rented another quarter from him. Presently they are also farming the half-section of Guy Fitch's and with the boys, Westley and David, they are operating a custom haying service.

JAKE HETH — by Alice Heth

In 1948 Jake and Alice Heth moved from a farm in the Crossfield District about twenty miles northwest of Eastend, Saskatchewan to the old Jack Fitch place in the Centerville District. They were blessed with six sons, **Larry** age ten, **Galen** nine, **Donald** six, **Melvyn** four, **Howard** three, and **Wayne** one. They had bought the land with the crop from Kowalchuck and Stackinick. They had harvested a crop in Saskatchewan and hurried to Centerville to enroll the children in school and harvest the crop. As soon as the Heth's started to move, bad luck started to plague them. No box cars were available to ship anything, so cattle had to be left to bring up later. Machinery, milk cows and chickens were brought up by tractor and truck. The moving van hired to bring household effects and small things, upset twelve miles from their home when the driver couldn't make a sharp turn with disastrous results. So, the Heth family had to live in a small motel at Medicine Hat for almost a week in order to get everything straightened up.

When they arrived at the farm, the boys livened up that big house and any spooks there, surely took off for a



Mr. and Mrs. J. Heth family.



J. Heth and descendants.

quieter abode. After a typical Alberta harvest with rain, snow and sunshine, they were almost settled for the winter when the big barn filled with feed burnt to the ground. With the help of so many fine neighbours, who seemed to come all at once from no where, the rest of the building and feed were saved. A very special thank-you to you all.

Then followed three very dry years, which the Heth family was used to, but didn't expect in the land of milk and honey. Those were followed by very wet years sometimes the combining was being done after freeze up.

In 1954, their **seventh** son, Bryan, was born, and in 1958, a daughter, **Linda** was born.

Time moved on with its ups and downs and their boys went out to work and to marry. In 1961, Larry married Helen Fowler of Calgary, and they have three children, Brenda, Robert and Sherri. In 1966 Melvyn married Barbara Orchard of Nanton, they have two children, Bernice and Michael. Howard married Beverly Ann Stregger of Midale, Saskatchewan and they have three children, Danny, Patty, and Jeremy Jacob. Galen married Madeline Moshopoulou of Athens, Greece and they have two girls, Ann Marie and Jacqueline. In 1972 Donald married Marlene Petryk of Star and they have two girls, Denise and Michelle.

In 1975, twenty-seven years later, Jake and Alice have retired to 20 Mitchell Avenue, Red Deer, and Howard and Beverly, Danny and Patty, moved to the farm from Warburg. The same year, death saddened the Heth home with the passing of their son, Bryan. The Heths will always have many fond memories of Centerville and their good friends there and will always feel that they are still a part of it.

BIOGRAPHY OF THE EMIL HILMAN FAMILY — as told by the family

The Hilman's farm grew from an unimproved quarter section in 1944 into an enterprise that encompasses both farming and a commercial repair shop. However, both the farm and repair shop had humble beginnings.

In fact, when Emil was born on a farm in the Marianne District in 1922, he naturally didn't know what lay in the future. Instead he spent his youthful years working with his six brothers and seven sisters on the farm with his parents, Oscar and Ida Hilman (see Marianne history). Emil received his education in the Marianne Country School, and during that time was also employed as janitor for three seasons. This was no small chore, and wages received for this service was mere pocket money.

Life on the farm was a busy and happy one. Emil recalls the good old days of working on the threshing machine run in the falls. But in spite of all the hard work involved, there was still time to join in the baseball games two or three times a week, with the rest of the young men in the district.

As the family grew, they began searching for homes of their own. Meanwhile, a prairie girl, named Martha Frisch, moved with her parents, Reinhold and Ida, along with two other sisters and two brothers from Irvine, Alberta, first to the Wetaskiwin area in 1937 then later to the Pine Hill district in 1941. (See Burnt Lake history.) Martha attended school at the Lucas School in the Wetaskiwin area, and in southern Alberta in the Coal Center School. It was so called, as it was surrounded by strip mining coal.

The Creek which was near the school holds fond memories also. On hot days it worked well as a cooling system for bottles of milk tied to the rocks with twine, and the boys catch water snakes near the rocks and scare the daylights out of the girls. During the spring thaw runoff the waters would rise, making it impossible to get across with horse and cutter, so it was quite necessary to skip school until the water subsided.

Emil and Martha were married in 1944. That same year they began building their home in the Centerville district, on the S.E. 30-31-37-W5 formerly owned by Sid Shaw. In the spring of 1945, the month of May was a joyous day well remembered, as not only was it the day the foundation of a new home was being poured, but it was also the day the Truce was signed and news flashed over the radios that World War II was now over.

During the war years lumber was one of the many things in short supply. Therefore Emil and Martha built their farm and home from native lumber manufactured from their own mill. The sawmill, designed and built by Emil and a brother, Philip, eventually cut millions of board feet for customers in the surrounding areas.

The Hilman's quickly became involved in the community and business such as: General Trucking, Custom Land Clearing, and winter contracts with the sawmill, in addition to farming. These enterprises eventually gave way to farming on a full time basis, aided by Emil's mechanical ability and his farm repair shop. Before long, by popular demand, his farm repair shop grew into a full time business. Emil received his provincial Welding and Mechanics ticket and operated the shop while the sons handled the farming.

By this time the family had grown to eight sons and one daughter. (David, Marvin, Stanley, Perry, Earl, James, Calvin, Linda and Vern.) All received their education in the Centerville, Sylvan Lake and Red Deer Vocational High Schools. The eldest son, David, also received his Welding and Mechanical licence and joined his dad in the shop. He married Joyce Hrdlicka from Condor, and is presently living in the district. Stanley received his Journalism diploma, is married to Lorraine Barkley from Fort Saskatchewan, and is now established in a business of his own in Drayton Valley, Alberta. Perry married Mary Bugbee from Calgary and is presently living on the farm — active in farming along with Marvin. Both have served a term as a Committee member on the board of the Alberta Wheat Pool. Jim is employed in steam plant engineering (technology) at Fairview, Alberta, and Earl, a great outdoorsman, has varied his career from that of a plumbing trade to one of guiding in the West country. Calvin, Linda and Vern have yet to complete their education and search for interests unknown to them as yet.

The passing years have been busy ones, as the family has also participated on the Apostolic Lutheran Church Board as well as executive board members of the Centerville Community Club and the Women's Club.

There have been many memorable events to write down as history, one being the severe snow storm which hit our area in March of 1951, piling up 8-10 foot drifts and isolating us from the rest of the world for two weeks. After the township road got cleared the mail came as close as the corner, so Emil walked the two miles on the drifts, touching the telephone line all the way. But there are also years like 1967 worth remembering, for this was Centennial Year (Canada's 100th birthday). Even though April brought a heavy snow storm, it carried us through for moisture during a beautiful summer and fall weather with very little rain during the season.

BIOGRAPHY OF PHILIP HOLLAND — by Ivan Holland

Philip Holland was one of 10 children — 5 boys and 5 girls. His parents, Samuel and Henrietta Holland came to Canada, to the Leduc area of Alberta, as well as Samuel's father and mother, and a number of brothers and sisters.

Around 1895 a large number of families immigrated, as a body from a sector of Russia lying near the German border, to escape political oppression and to gain the freedom of worship that Canada offered. In Canada they found the freedom they sought, but also all the hard work and heartache connected with making new home in a wilderness in a strange land. For these people, as with so many other pioneers, there was no turning back. They

were thousands of miles separated from familiar places and people, and had no money to return if that was their desire.

So they pressed forward, clearing land and improving their homesteads, and almost immediately built a church which was the focal point of the community. Nearly all of the social activities as well as the regular worship services were held in the large rural German Baptist Church.

Philip was born November 19, 1901 at Leduc, Alberta. Upon completion of grade school, he worked on various farms in the community and surrounding area. In 1927 he was married to Minnie Riehl also of the Leduc district, with the wedding taking place in the Baptist Church in Leduc.

Philip had always wanted a farm of his own, but times were difficult, there were few farms for sale and the great depression was looming. He worked in Edmonton for several years, at the Reed ranch east of Olds, and then back to Leduc again where their first son, Ivan was born.

Then in 1932 a real estate agent brought Philip to the Centerville district to look at a ½ section of C.P.R. land for sale. The land was situated on top of the ridge, with a westerly slope toward the valley below, and with a splendid view of the beautiful Alberta Rockies in the west. He bought one quarter and Ed Krause, his brother-in-law bought the other. The total down payment on the quarter was \$28.00, a sum which seems ridiculously small today, but which was extremely difficult to raise in those years. It was a raw quarter, solid bush, no buildings and only a few old fences around the perimeter.

The first summer Philip and Minnie cleared about 5 acres by hand, but returned to Leduc until March of 1933. Early in the spring of 1933, leaving wife and son behind, Philip loaded most of their earthly possessions on a wagon, and with a team of horses, moved to Centerville. The trip was made along with Philip's sister Elvena, and her husband Ed Krause, who moved their possessions in a similar manner to the adjoining quarter of land. Some cattle and horses were trailed behind the wagons on that first trip, which took a total of three days and two nights. Home for the first summer was on a quarter rented from John Fitch known as the "O.D. quarter", which had a house and a small barn on it. Later in the spring, Minnie and their young son came by car and in May of that year their second son, Allen was born. Philip made a second trip with the team and wagon to bring some more belongings and also had some cows trucked down.



Holland and Krause families, early thirties.



Phil and Minnie Holland with sons.

From the time Philip and Minnie moved into the district they were made to feel welcome and received much help from their new neighbors in supplying shelter, food and perhaps above all friendship.

The following year, a house was started, built from the logs off the farm. The logs were cut and hewn by hand, and with neighbors help the house was erected. Lumber for the roof came from Caroline, as did the shingles. Someone at Caroline had a shingle mill and was cutting shingles from lodgepole pine, and they served the purpose for many years. The lumber cost \$17 per thousand board feet delivered, and the shingles for the whole roof cost \$14.40. The windows were shipped by truck at Sylvan Lake and cost 75 cents each. A barn, chicken house, brooder house and garage were also erected from either logs or rough lumber cut from the trees on the farm.

Land clearing was a painfully slow process involving a great deal of back breaking labor. Equipped only with an axe and a faithful team of horses, Philip cleared and broke some new land each summer. The yields on the new land were encouraging, but the depression prices for grain were heartbreaking. In later years, caterpillar tractors equipped with brush cutters and pilers cleared the trees, and also plowed up the new land.

The heavy bush on the farm provided a source of much needed cash in the first few years. The Markerville Creamery required cord wood, so once again Philip with his team of horses, his axe and a cross cut saw, felled the trees, cut them into 4 foot lengths, split them, loaded and hauled them 6 miles to Markerville. The price received was 99¢ per cord, delivered, and this price increased to \$2 per cord a year or two later.

The splitting was usually done when it was very cold, as the wood split easier when frozen. Sometimes he hired a man to help, but quite often he worked alone. Often after a hard days work he played the violin to relax.

These were the hardest years, when even the barest necessities seemed like luxuries. A garden, a flock of chickens and some milk cows helped to supply plenty of wholesome food. There was also an abundance of blueberries and saskatoons on the farm.

A third son, Billy, was born in 1936. About this time the family acquired their first car, which certainly made getting from place to place much easier and faster, even though travelling was limited to summer, and only then when the roads were dry. Winter transportation was still mainly the horses and sleigh.



The Holland family.

Although it would seem that all was hard work on the farm, that was not the case. There were good neighbors, many social evenings at the school house, Sunday School and church, and of course, each other.

Philip had a personality that did not allow him or those around him to be downhearted for very long, even in the most miserable of situations.

The Hollands learned to love this community and its people, who were so kind and helpful right from the very start. Philip could often be heard to say, "I wouldn't trade this part of the country or the people for any other I've ever seen. Centerville is a good place to live."

Philip and Minnie lived on the farm until Philip's death in January of 1975.

The eldest son **Ivan** married Lillian Axelsen of Calgary. They have a family of four girls, Susan, Donna, Jill and Terri, and live on the former Holmgren farm.

The second son **Allen** married Doreen Axelsen of Calgary, and their family consists of three girls and one boy, JoAnne, twins Kim and Ken, and Jamie. They now live on the former Philip Holland farm.

The youngest son **Bill** married a Nova Scotia girl, Carol Forbes. They have a family of two boys, Robert and Gordon, and reside in Yellowknife, N.W.T.

BIOGRAPHY OF ELOF AND ARTHUR HOLMGREN FAMILIES — Written by Rose Holmgren Norris

Elof Holmgren was born in the village of Shansholm in northern Sweden on May 1, 1884. In 1906 he came to Burnt Lake, Alberta, where his younger brother, Arthur, had come three years earlier. Here Elof lived with his uncle, Mat Matson, and his wife. The Matsons had come to the Burnt Lake area around 1880. They had no family. Soon after Elof's arrival, he and Arthur filed oh homesteads in the New Hill district some twenty miles farther west.

Arthur farmed his quarter until poor health forced him to retire in 1940. He had married Ingrid Matson, a niece of Andrew Olson of New Hill. She passed away in 1934 leaving three small children, **Margaret, Rose and Phillip.**

Margaret is married to Earl Beck and they reside in Red Deer. They have four children: Bruce Arthur; Gloria Mae, who married Paul McGlove — they have one daughter Lisa Mae; Daryl John; Dwayne Allan.



Elof Holmgren on tractor.

Rose married Sid Norris and they live at Cochrane. They have three children, Marjorie, Sue and Arthur.

Phillip and his wife, Mildred, live in Red Deer. They have two girls, Karin and Marlene.

Arthur lived his last years at Sylvan Lake. He died October 18, 1948.

In 1909 Elof married Magda Erikson, the elder daughter of Adrian Erikson of Burnt Lake.

Elof and Magda had to sons, **Rolf** born in 1910 and **Tord** born in 1912. Rolf is retired and is living in Sylvan Lake. Tord passed away in Portland, Oregon, in 1959.

In 1916 the family moved from the homestead to the farm in Centerville, where Ivan Holland now lives. It was there when I lived with them for about a year (1935-1936) that I came to know them well. I was a motherless pre-



Mrs. Elof Holmgren with son Tord.

schooler and I had a happy year — only a little lonely for my brother and sister.

Auntie took me with her on occasional visits to neighbors, in the buggy behind their beautiful team, Babe and Belle. She also attended the ladies club meetings. Many neighbors came to visit and among the more frequent, at least those I remember best, were Alf Johnson, Mrs. Hodges, Madge Fitch and her children, and the Levi Eriksons.

The farm was a busy place, as all four of them had hobbies and projects. On a typical day in the late winter I could watch Auntie check the eggs in the incubator and the chicks hatching, Rolf getting some reception on the crystal set, Tord checking his electric fence that controlled pigs, and Elof repairing and refinishing "Aunt's" buggy in preparation for the coming season.

Elof had worked at road building in the earlier years but when I knew him his skill as a blacksmith was what kept him busy. He had made all the hardware such as hinges and latches for both the hen house and the machine shed.

The hen house housed Maggie's leghorn hens which supplied eggs for many customers as well as for home use.

The growing and harvesting season was also full of activity. Not only did they grow the normal grain crops and garden as well as some livestock, but Auntie also had an orchard. The main and only saleable crop was raspberries but there was a strawberry patch, crabapple trees and, in later years, some plum trees.

Throughout my childhood it was the only place I ever lived that had a real lawn, hedges and flower beds.

Elof passed away on March 29, 1945. Maggie lived on the farm with Rolf and Selma for a while and then moved to Sylvan Lake. Later she sold her house and moved to Vancouver. She passed away in January, 1956, while visiting Tord in Portland, Oregon.

BIOGRAPHY OF FRED DOUGLAS HALL — written by F. J. Sigurdson

Fred Hall was born near Ackeworth in Warren County, Iowa, on April 28, 1865. He had six brothers.

Fred came to Innisfail in the spring of 1903 in a box car, caring for stock and household effects for a settler

from Des Moines, Iowa. He spent several years working on farms around Innisfail.

In 1934 he came to Centerville district to farm SW¼ of 26-37-2-5 until 19 when he moved back to Innisfail.

In 1956 he moved to Fillmore, Saskatchewan, to make his home with his sister-in-law and several nieces and nephews.

Fred passed away in 1959 at the age of 94 and is buried in the Fillmore cemetery.

He will always be remembered by those who knew him as a very colorful gentleman, with stories of people he knew and met, and ways of life in the southern States as a young man.

HENRY JAMIESON — written by E. L. Meeres

Published in the Red Deer Advocate June 6, 1967.

Indirectly, although it did not happen during his life time, it was the generosity of Henry Jamieson that was responsible for the Alberta School Hospital being in its present location overlooking Red Deer from the east, for he donated the twenty acres of land on which the original of the present complex of buildings was built.

Originally erected as the Presbyterian Ladies College, for which purpose the donation of land was made in 1910, it became a hospital for returned soldiers following the First World War, and was later taken over for the Provincial Training School, now known as the Alberta School Hospital.

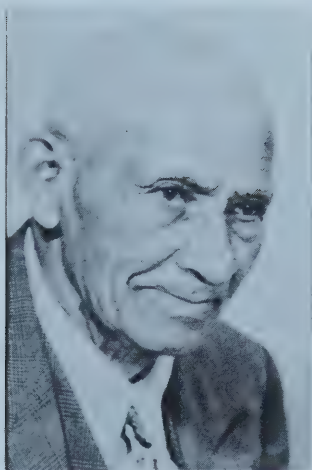
Henry Jamieson was born in Horton, Renfrew County, Ontario, in 1843 and he was married on June 28, 1867 to Marion Airth, the second daughter of David and Margaret Airth of Renfrew, where she was born on September 7, 1847. Mr. Jamieson was a farmer and drover all of his life and in his early years, he was an expert ploughman, winning a number of prizes for his skill.

For thirty years at Renfrew and Pembroke, he and his brothers carried on an extensive business as drovers and purveyors of cattle and meat, a business which was taken over by his nephews. He served on the council of the town of Pembroke for years, and was a valuable worker and platform speaker for the Liberal party.

He came to Red Deer with his family in 1900 and purchased the west half of Section 15 on the east hill overlooking Red Deer from John T. Moore, agent for the Saskatchewan Land and Homestead Company for \$6 per acre. He brought out some fine horses and pure-bred Jersey cattle with him, but lost nine horses from swamp fever and during and following the ensuing winter which was a particularly severe one, he lost 25 head of cattle and three more horses, a total loss at market value then of about \$2,500.

However, he was the type of man who met misfortune or success with equal equanimity, and he soon became one of the leaders in agricultural improvement, organization and education in the area. By 1908, he had developed and improved his own land to such an extent that in the Red Deer Exhibition Society competition, he was awarded first prize for the best kept farm in the district. Subsequently that year, he was elected president of the Exhibition Association.

A man of exceptional physical and mental vigor, well informed, broad-minded and kindly, he was nevertheless a keen fighter in politics and on public questions, who clung tenaciously to his own views and ideas. The in-



Fred Hall.

terests of the farmers were ever close to his heart and in 1908, he was a member of the provincial executive of the Provincial Farmer's Association, and he was active in the U.F.A. assisting in the forming of locals, and strongly supporting the view that freight charges should be pooled uniformly like postal charges, without consideration of the distance involved, contending that such an arrangement would greatly simplify routine procedure and eliminate most of the contentious and objectionable features of the existing system.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Jamieson were staunch members of the Presbyterian church, in the work of which Mrs. Jamieson had been a devoted participant since girlhood, and it was his keen interest in having the Ladies Presbyterian College located in Red Deer, that prompted Mr. Jamieson's donation of the twenty acres of land on which the college was erected. He was a member of the college board.

With a real estate boom developing in Red Deer, Mr. Jamieson sold 120 acres of his land to a Toronto syndicate, who planned on subdividing it, in December 1910 for \$20,000, and after disposing of the balance of his land, principally for subdivision purposes, he moved to a farm in the Burnt Lake district.

It was there on June 28, 1917, with all of their family present, together with Mrs. Jamieson's sister, Mrs. Malcolm McDermid, who had been bridesmaid, that Mr. and Mrs. Jamieson celebrated this golden wedding anniversary. Shortly afterwards, they retired to Sylvan Lake where in January, 1920, Mr. Jamieson suffered a stroke. After some initial improvement, he steadily lost strength, although his mental faculties were almost unimpaired to the last, and he died on June 16, 1920 in his 77th year.

Mrs. Jamieson, one of those devoted women, who gave their lives to family, community and church in loyal service, subsequently lived with her son, David at Sylvan Lake. After enjoying fairly good health prior to the preceding winter, when she started to weaken, she died on March 10, 1930 in her 83rd year. Both Mr. and Mrs. Jamieson are buried in the Red Deer Cemetery.

The family consisted of five daughters and three sons, and at the time of their mother's death Mrs. Alex Pirie was living at Calgary. Mrs. Thomas Ferguson was living at Lydden, Saskatchewan. Mrs. Arthur Wright was living at Ardley, Mrs. James McKechnie was living at Hinton, Mrs. W. L. McKinnon was living at Delburne.



Henry Jamieson family. Golden Wedding, Burnt Lake June 27, 1917.

The three sons will be the subjects of separate biographies. Mrs. McKechnie, the former Arabella Jamieson, was married to Mr. McKechnie in November of 1904. Mrs. William L. McKinnon, the former Ethel Jamieson, moved to Ontario to live with her daughter, Mrs. Stewart Stipe, after the death of her husband in 1947. She died in Hamilton on November 15, 1958 at the age of 75 and is buried in the Red Deer Cemetery.

THE JAMIESON FAMILY IN CENTERVILLE AND SYLVAN LAKE

In 1898 Henry Jamieson, father of **Dave** and **Harvey** Jamieson left Pembroke, Ontario in the early fall for Red Deer, North West Territories, to see his eldest son, **Will**, now of Delburne, and to look for land to buy in the new west.

On that trip he bought a section of land on the hill just east of Red Deer, where the Provincial Training School stands, from the Saskatchewan Land and Homestead Co. He paid six dollars an acre.

He returned to the east later in the fall with his son, and at once began shipping cattle to the west for breeding purposes. He was one of the first men in the district to be interested in the development of a good breed of cattle.

It was not until the fall of 1901, however, that he sold part of his holdings in Ontario and returned to the west with his wife and family.

Sons Will and Dave came to the west earlier that year and built a two-roomed shack, 16 feet square, one room above the other for the family to live in.

It was shared for two weeks with Mr. August Gehrke, his wife and eight children. He was a long-time business associate of Mr. Jamieson in the east who decided to come west too. Mr. Gehrke was one of the well-known pioneers of the Shady Nook district.

Mr. Jamieson brought with him one car load of pure bred Jersey cattle, one car of horses and machinery, and one of household effects. Having no place to put these goods, they were stored on the homestead belonging to J. J. Gaetz, and the stock were sheltered in sod barns a mile away.

During the summer of 1902 the Jamieson boys cleared and broke 30 acres of land. As the clearing was done by hand it took all summer.

In those years there was very little money around and the settlers felt lucky to have enough to pay their taxes which were not very high.

Butter was selling for five cents a pound and eggs for around five and ten cents a dozen.

But the spirit of neighborliness was very fine. They all helped and did for each other what they could.

The years of 1903 and 1904 Mr. Jamieson suffered a great loss, when 35 head of horses died from swamp fever and oxen had to be used which slowed the work.

In the summer of 1902 the young people of the family began to hear about a beautiful lake about 20 miles away to the west called Snake Lake, and they planned to go and camp on its shores to see if they could catch some fish.

One day in July, Harvey with his sister, Ethel, and two friends loaded a democrat with camping outfit and supplies and started out to find the lake. The road wound in and among the trees, had numerous mud holes and crossed many farms. Later on as settlers came, there

were 22 gates to open and close and it took seven hours to make the trip one way. But it remained even with the poor road, the favorite fun place for everyone.

When they got within sight of the lake it began to rain and for three days and nights it was a steady downpour. They couldn't find a place dry enough to camp where the townsite of Sylvan Lake now is, and had to go to a high spot among the trees just north of the bridge at the outlet of the lake.

They had no stove but built a big bonfire in front of their tent and managed to keep warm and cook on it, using lake water for cooking and drinking.

Harvey Jamieson spent the summer of 1907 rafting lumber, furniture and other supplies from Evarts down the Medicine River to the Red Deer and on down to Content for the new settlers that were moving in on both sides of the river.

In 1908 Mr. Jamieson Sr. donated 20 acres of land to the Presbyterian Ladies College, that is now the Provincial Training School. In 1909 he sold the rest of his property there and bought a section and a half of land in the Burnt Lake district, paying 20 dollars an acre. Dave and Harvey took over the management of that land and Mr. and Mrs. Jamieson went east for a visit.

They were threshing five years later, December 2, 1914, when Harvey took the day off and married Miss Margaret McKee of Red Deer.

In 1916 Mr. Jack Fitch, Mr. George Moore and Mr. T. Thompson were anxious to have a telephone line. Mr. Fitch called on Harvey and asked if he was interested. He said he was, and Mr. Fitch said if he could get another signer they would start a rural line. He left, but was back in about two hours with another signer. Each pledged up to \$100 for construction and that is how the Centerville Telephone Co. came to be started as an independent company.

The line was anything but first class. In some places the fence wire was used, but a conversation could be heard over it and it filled its purpose in the lives of the early settlers who used it.

Later the Marianne line was formed — Jack Fitch and Harvey Jamieson were the linemen. They were notified to put a telephone in a house somewhere near Evarts.

On arriving there they found they had forgotten their auger, and asked for the loan of one, but were told there was none. They began to look around to see if they could find something to use instead. When they saw an old 45-90 rifle hanging on the wall Jack Fitch took it down, saying, "Harvey, this is all we need." He asked where the telephone was to be placed, stood back and shot a hole through the wall, and the phone went in on schedule.

That phone line came into Sylvan Lake, but was not connected until later with the Western General Phone Co. It ended in the hardware store on the corner where the new post office stands.

Dave and Harvey Jamieson traded their half section of land for that hardware store in 1917 when they moved in to town.

In 1918 Mr. and Mrs. Jamieson Sr. moved to Sylvan Lake and remained until Mr. Jamieson's death in 1920. Mrs. Jamieson passed away in 1930. Both are buried in Red Deer.

Dave and Harvey installed the first electric lighting plant in Sylvan Lake in 1920, furnishing a few homes with light. Later they enlarged the plant and supplied a greater number of homes, stores, the church and municipal office and ran it until Calgary Power came into town in 1934.

In 1925 a Business Men's Association was formed and by way of advertising the Beauty Spot of Alberta, those men constructed a float in the form of a boat on Harvey Jamieson's car and he drove it that year to the Calgary Stampede and the next year to the Edmonton fair.

Ward Keith bought the hardware store in 1934, but the Jamiesons continued with the B.A. oil agency which they have operated since 1920, making it the oldest agency of the company in Alberta.

Published in Sylvan Lake News, April 9, 1953.

Written by Anna Pope Jaminette.

In 1947 Harvey was appointed Justice of the Peace, he also served on both the town council and school board.

We must now bring the record up to date. The Jamieson brothers who operated the hardware store at Sylvan Lake for many years have now gone to their rest. Dave A. Jamieson died in 1957, Harvey in 1965 and his wife Margaret, in 1957. Children in the Harvey Jamieson family are: **Edith** — Mrs. Eston Holsworth of Alix, **Walter** — of Calgary, **Hazel** — Mrs. Arnold Sambrook, of Eckville, **Eleanor** — Mrs. Thos Hurd, of Kirkland Lake, Ontario, **Doris** — Mrs. Kendall Greenwood (deceased 1975).

Let us now give a brief account of the years the Jamiesons spent in the Burnt Lake and Centerville districts. The one and one-half sections of land owned by the Jamiesons was actually in the Centerville district, but they possibly fellowshipped equally in the two districts. Their residence was first located on the S.E.¼ of Section 5-38-1-W. 5 where they all lived until 1914 when Harvey married.

In the spring of 1915 Mr. and Mrs. Henry Jamieson and Dave with his sister, Mrs. Jim McKechnie, moved to the S.E.¼ of Section 6-T.38-R.1 where they remained until trading the land for a hardware business in Sylvan Lake. During at least two years while the elder Jamiesons were living on the last mentioned farm the Rev. W. G. McKechnie lived with them and held services at Evarts and Centerville.

OF THE COMMITTEE APPOINTED BY THE FARMERS' INSTITUTE OF NORTH RENFREW re TARIFF REFORM

**To the Hon. W. S. Fielding, Minister of Finance
TARIFF ENQUIRY COMMISSION:**

After careful consideration, we beg leave to report that the Protective Tariff that has been in operation for many years has not fulfilled the expectations of even those who formerly advocated it.

That, owing chiefly to the opening up and cultivation of large areas of fertile land in our own North-west, as well as in many countries where labor is extremely cheap, the competition in farm products has become so great, that in order for the farmers of this country to compete successfully, it has become absolutely necessary that their expenses should be reduced, and to this end we would recommend a substantial reduction on such ar-

ticles as agricultural implements, binder twine, hay wire, fence wire, nails, coal oil, and other articles largely used by farmers.

We are of opinion that such a tariff may be devised as will relieve the farmers especially, as well as the consuming classes generally, without impairing the revenue generally, without impairing the revenue or seriously affecting any manufacturing interest adapted to the country. As we produce a surplus of most farm products, such as wheat, coarse grains, hay, beef, sheep, lambs, hams, bacon, eggs, fish and c., and as this surplus must, and does, find an outlet in foreign markets, we hold that a duty on such articles cannot enhance their value, except in exceptional times of scarcity; and it would be in the interests of the farmers here to forego such rare and exceptional advantages, if necessary, in order to secure the lasting and substantial benefits that would result from the adoption of a well devised revenue tariff — a tariff that would place the farmers on an equal footing with the manufacturers, a position which they have not occupied heretofore.

(Signed),

HENRY JAMIESON,
ARCHIBALD CAMERON,
ROBERT McCLELLAND,
W. JAMIESON,
JOHN COLLINS,
A. J. DOUGHERTY,

Beachburg, Ont. Jan. 23, 1897.

BIOGRAPHY OF JOHN JOHNSON AND CHARLES SCHILL FAMILIES — as told by Henry Johnson

I believe, to make this history complete, a brief summary of their lives prior to their marriage would make very interesting reading to the people of this day and age.

Mr. John A. Johnson was born in Dahlsam, Sweden. He was an only child. His mother passed away when he was nine years old. He started out on his own at the age of fifteen. He worked in logging camps in northern Sweden and also in Norway. A friend loaned him money to pay his fare to Canada in 1895. He worked three years for a farmer near Brandon, Manitoba. At the end of this three-year period he had paid back the loan to his friend. In 1898 he took a homestead west of Red Deer, its exact location being the South-West quarter of section 10, Township 38, Range 2, West of the 5th Meridian.

One of the greatest problems associated with pioneer homesteading is the financing of those first few years until the new farm starts to produce. During the winter months Mr. Johnson hewed railway ties for the road which was going west through the Crows Nest Pass. In summer months he worked on his homestead. He built a house and barn for Mr. Eric Mannerfeldt and they batched together until Mr. Johnson completed a house and barn for himself. With a team of oxen he broke enough land to get his title to his homestead. He also broke the required ten acres for proving up for title for several of his neighbors. He received \$2.00 an acre for this work.

A Mr. Jack Ward arrived from England and bought two quarters joining Mr. Johnson's quarter to the south. He broke over one hundred acres of land, built a very large house, finished on the outside but not on the inside, and he also built a large bunk house and other smaller

buildings. Mr. Johnson earned some necessary cash by working for Mr. Ward. He worked twelve-hour days and boarded himself for \$1.00 a day. Mr. Ward intended to marry a girl friend still in England. A Mrs. Wilcox wrote the girl's mother advising her not to let her daughter come to Alberta because of bears, and wolves, etc. So Mr. Ward, determined to marry the girl, decided to sell out and go back to England. He sold his land to Mr. Johnson at \$10.00 per acre with a \$100.00 down payment. The following year Mr. Johnson seeded the 100 acres to oats. There was little or no market for oats but hoping for a miracle he threshed a bumper crop of 100 bushels per acre. The grain was threshed damp and had to be dried, but there were no mechanical driers in those days. So the grain was spread out over the floor of the big house. Throughout the winter months the grain was shoveled back and forth many times. In this way it became dry and did not heat and destroy itself.

At this point we must go back a few years and give Mrs. Johnson's history prior to meeting Mr. Johnson. So this is the brief history of Tilda Lindquist — Mrs. Schill — Mrs. Johnson.

Mrs. Johnson before marriage to Mr. Schill was Tilda Lindquist. Her father and mother, two sisters, Agusta and Minnie, one brother, John, emigrated from Sweden to Minnesota in 1878. Three years later her father died and the family sold out and moved to Nebraska where Tilda met and married Charles Schill. Mr. Schill and his brother, Albert, had a farm, machinery, stock, sod house and a sod barn with straw roof. They also had a dual purpose root cellar-cyclone shelter. Many pioneer homes had root cellars in the yard where vegetables could be kept for long periods of time, even into the following spring and early summer. They would also gather buffalo chips for fuel for wood and coal were non-existent. The two Schill brothers had emigrated from Sweden leaving a father, mother, and sister there. After Albert died, Mr. and Mrs. Schill (due to very dry weather) moved along with the Lindquist family to Mitchell, South Dakota. Mrs. Lindquist, Mrs. Schill's mother, died at Mitchell. Mrs. Schill's sister, Minnie, married twice, had a daughter, Anna, two granddaughters, Helen and Florence, and five great-grandchildren. Minnie died in the spring of 1916. Her sister, Agusta, also married twice, had one son, Carl Sandell, and two grandsons, Orville and Fayner. Agusta died in 1924 and was buried beside her mother in Mitchell, South Dakota. Her brother, John, spent most of his life in logging camps in northern Alberta. He married but had no family. He died in Edmonton, Alberta, February 16, 1949.

South Dakota also had very dry years so to get feed for their stock the Schill family moved to Minot, North Dakota. Their oldest daughter, Hulda, was killed in a haying accident during the two years they farmed in North Dakota. The pasture and crops were very poor because of the lack of moisture, so they decided to move to Alberta.

Moving to Alberta, the Schill family had to cross the Missouri River. They had a steam threshing outfit and because of its weight he was allowed to cross the river at his own risk. Part way across the river the blocking moved and they lost both the engine and separator. They tried to salvage some of the threshing machine but with



Mr. and Mrs. J. Johnson Hilda and Henry, 1914.



Carl Pearson, Emil Schill, Annie Schill, Esther Schill, Hilda Johnson, 1914.

no results, so they proceeded on to the region west of the city of Red Deer with their stock, farm machinery and household effects. Their homestead was about twenty miles west of Red Deer.

Two years after moving to Alberta Mr. Schill died at the age of 49 leaving Mrs. Schill with four children and \$3.00 in cash. With the help of her children she made a coffin by using slabs taken off the back of their cabin. Mr. Thorel Eymundson with a wagon and a team of horses transported Mr. Schill's remains in the homemade coffin to the Burnt Lake cemetery. Eymundson, Logan and Bertheuson dug the grave and filled it in again. There wasn't any pastor or minister to be called that anyone knew of so Mrs. Schill with her Lutheran background knew how to pray. The Lord gave her the needed strength at the grave side, where with heads bowed and two children in each arm she gave the closing prayer.

Mrs. Schill took a homestead after she became a widow and the following year Mr. Johnson and Mrs. Schill were married.

Mrs. Johnson with her four children **Annie, Emil, Esther** and **Alvin** with their stock and land and machinery, joined forces with Mr. Johnson to build what was to become one of the most up-to-date farms in the Red Deer district. The Schill boys and girls had very little time for recreation or schooling but they did have a lot of work milking cows, raising hogs, sheep, cattle and horses. The land had to be cleared by hand and cultivated. The only power was horse power and man power.

At this time it is necessary to return to the time when Mr. Johnson first came to Alberta. His name at that time was Johanson. However, he found that there were many people by that name in the district where he lived. This caused difficulty with his mail delivery so he had his name changed by the Department of Vital Statistics to "Johnson". Thereafter he was known as John A. Johnson but was usually referred to by his friends as "Big Johnson".

Let us now continue with the drying of oats in the large house. The grain had to be continually turned over by shoveling which was done by Mr. Johnson and the four Schill boys and girls. This tiresome task continued until March the following year. At this time two railways were being built from Red Deer to Nordeg via Rocky Mountain House. They were the Grand Trunk and the A.C.R. (All Canadian Railway) and the railway grades had to be built by horse power and horses need oats. So the railway companies bought Mr. Johnson's oats at fifty cents per bushel. He now had enough money to pay Mr. Ward in full for the land and had a nice bank account left over. This was a break the family needed and they now invested in more land, horses, cattle and better machinery. The prices for farm produce climbed during World War One. The family did very well during the war years. Mr. Johnson bought a steam threshing outfit which was operated very successfully for a number of years by Emil and Alvin Schill. Mr. Johnson banked a net profit of \$5,000.00 a year for eight years while threshing most of the farmers' grain in the Evarts district.

When the war ended, November 11, 1918, the prices were very good. Wheat sold at nearly \$2.00 per bushel, cattle brought a good price, hay sold as high as \$100.00



J. Johnson and Albin Schill with their first steamer.

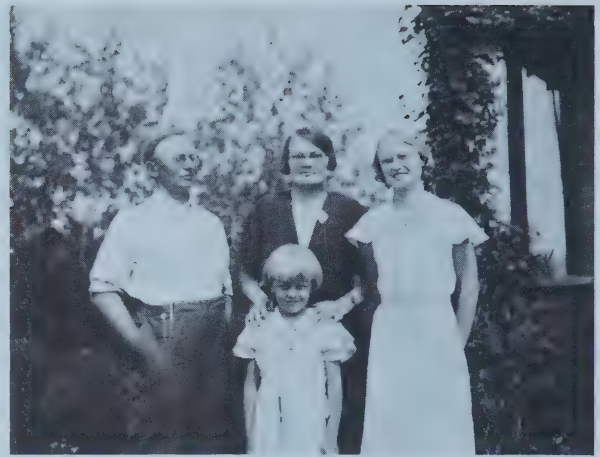
per ton, green feed at 25¢ per bundle. In 1919 the prices dropped. Mr. Johnson sold wheat at 18¢ per bushel. The cattle Mr. Johnson had been offered \$100.00 each for dropped to \$10.00 each within a year. As far as Alberta farmers were concerned, the Great Depression started in 1919 and was to last for twenty years until the Second World War started.

I believe the people of today are a bit puzzled as to how the old pioneers got by. First recreation. Skating on sloughs frozen over in winter months and swimming in those same sloughs in the summer, a second hand set of clamp skates did the family. Mr. Johnson hewed a set of skis out of a birch log which was used by the family. The boys and girls got spending money when the boys caught muskrats, weasels and coyotes and sold the fur. A good year's catch would net \$25.00. For clothes, etc. flour and salt sacks made sheets and pillow cases. At the age of five or six the children learned to knit their socks and mitts. Mrs. Johnson, Annie and Esther would knit underwear and sweaters. They would trade butter and eggs for a bolt of cloth which was then made into shirts, pants and jackets. The mitts and socks had two colors. Their flock of sheep consisted of black sheep and white sheep and Mrs. Johnson and Annie would card and spin the wool into yarn.

The Schills in the late twenties and early thirties married and started out on their own. Alvin went to Philadelphia, Penn. to college. He got a job with Texaco oils to finance his education. He married in 1928 and his wife, Louise, was a great help to him. They had a hardware and appliance store, packed sales, Allis Chalmers machinery. He had the agency for Texaco bulk sales in Newport and Perry counties, a garage with a fleet of diesel trucks for delivering fuel to service stations on the Lincoln and Turnpike highways. He died in 1949 at the age of 49 but his wife, Louise, is still operating the business. His only child, Phyllis, married a Charles Erickson, a computer technician. They live in Mountain Lakes, New Jersey. They have three children, two boys and a girl.

Emil, Annie and Esther married and lived in the Red Deer district. Their history will be given separately. Mr. and Mrs. Johnson had two children, **Henry** and **Hilda**. Hilda is still at home on the original farm.

Henry worked in garages both in Drumheller and Calgary. He serviced trucks for Corser Bros. Tie and Lumber Company west of Edmonton for three winters. He farmed, operated a garage, sold machinery and did



Gus Nelson family, 1934.

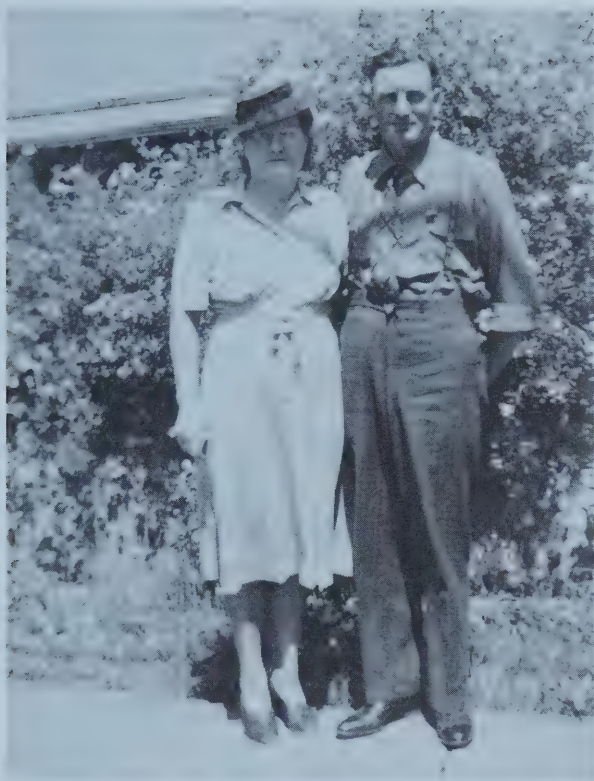
general trucking in Benalto, Alberta. He enlisted with the Royal Canadian Air Force in 1942 for a period of four years. Next year, 1943, he married Ann Ardell. He attended the Technical School in Calgary in 1946 and 1947 taking electronics and graduating with an electrical certificate. He also received his Journeyman gas and electric welding certificate together with Millwright and Steam Journeyman's certificate. He worked on steam boilers, refrigeration and did the electrical work at Canada Packers, Calgary, for two years. He worked at the Federal Government Terminal Elevator, Calgary, for over twenty years as millwright and engineer. He also installed and maintained heavy machinery for Alberta Protein Company and Alberta Processing Company for a period of two years. He has built and re-built several houses.

Henry always gave his best in church work and Anne worked with clubs and Sunday School. Henry and Anne started the first Sunday School Bus Ministry in Calgary. A large number of boys and girls and adults heard the gospel message for the first time because of this ministry. They have also carried on a program of visitation to senior citizens, disabled and hospital patients. They are now, in 1976, semi-retired with not enough hours in the day to do all they would like to do. With a home in Victoria and another in southern Arizona, they are always in a good climate.

After weathering the years prior to World War One, the depression of the twenties and thirties posed no serious problem to Mr. and Mrs. Johnson. They were financially well established and therefore would handle the economic recession of those years. Mrs. Johnson died in 1941 at the age of 78. The following year Mr. Johnson retired to Chilliwack, B.C. and in 1945 he moved to Pen-ticton, B.C. where he died the following spring, also at the age of 78. They are both laid to rest in the family plot in Burnt Lake Cemetery, Alberta.

ED KRAUSE — by Elvena Krause

Ed Krause was born in Poland and came to Canada in 1927. He made his home with his mother, brothers, and sister, at Leduc, Alberta. In 1931 he bought land from the C.P.R. in the Centerville District, located ten miles southwest of Sylvan Lake. In 1932 he married



Mr. and Mrs. Ed Krause.

Elvena Holland, who was born in Leduc, Alberta. In 1933 they packed all their belongings in one hayrack and drove with horses and wagon; two other horses were tied onto the back of the rack. This was their honeymoon, travelling for three days and arriving on their land April 2, 1933. Kind neighbours gave them food and lodging for a few days until Ed and Elvena cleaned the one room shack which they lived in for five years, then added on another room. The Krause's made their living milking cows, selling butter at 11¢ per pound, eggs sold for 5¢ a dozen as well. Ed and his brothers Mike and Ben sawed cord wood by hand and sold it to the Markerville Creamery for 99¢ a cord. It was hard work clearing the land by hand and breaking it with a milking plow and two horses, but times picked up and they were able to buy their first car in 1936, their first tractor was purchased in 1944 as well as a combine purchased in 1955. The Krause's built a new house in 1961 and raised a family of four children. **Irvin**, the oldest, now Pastor at Bethel Baptist Church in Calgary, **Betty**, Mrs. Wayne McColman at Sherwood Park, Alberta, **David** at Sylvan Lake, and **John** who was never well, passed away February 7, 1976 in Calgary at the age of twenty-six years.

In 1973 they sold the farm to their son, David, who still resides there with his wife Linda and three children, Dion, Treva-Lee and Rebecca. Shortly after Ed and Elvena sold the farm, Ed passed away on December 12 at the age of 65 years after a lengthy illness. Ed and Elvena happily lived on the farm for forty-one years. Now Elvena resides in a Senior Citizens' Home in Calgary, Alberta.

BIOGRAPHY OF REVEREND W. G. McKECHNIE — written by George Fitch

W. Gilbert McKechnie came from Ontario to Funnel Creek, B.C., in 1914, but a little later we find him at Red Deer and Rocky Mountain House where his brother, James, had a sawmill.

The greater part of this biography was supplied by Edith Jamieson Holsworth who refers to Rev. McKechnie as "Uncle Gib". She says it was most unfortunate that he lost his eyesight in his teens, but he went forth to conquer this affliction and became a Presbyterian minister in Central Alberta. For many years while living at Rocky Mountain House he travelled by train to Sylvan Lake where he held services from 1922 to 1926. He also served at Evarts and Benalto, various members of the congregation driving him about with team and buggy or cutter, depending on weather and road conditions.

Edith says, "Many of us remember with joy the times we could be 'eyes' for Uncle Gib and take his hand to meet a train, a visit to the sick or just a social call in the district; we also were over awed by his magic watch which chimed the hour and minutes when he pressed the stem."

Reverend McKechnie died in 1926.

I trust I will be pardoned for adding a brief note to the biography of Rev. McKechnie. I knew him very well between 1916 and 1918. During those years he was living with the Henry Jamieson family who were located on the east ½ Sec. 6-T. 38- R. 1 in the Centerville District.



Rev. W. G. McKechnie with niece.

Rev. McKechnie held services for at least two summers at the local school and at Evarts, Mr. Jamieson bringing him in a buggy. The morning service was at Evarts and afternoon at Centerville.

It is of interest to note that Rev. McKechnie was a Presbyterian as were most of those who attended here but the Sunday School Superintendent, Mr. T. Thompson, was an Seventh-day Adventist. However, I never recall a single word of friction.

I can attest to the fact that Rev. McKechnie was well loved and respected by all in the Centerville Community. He was every inch a true Christian gentleman.

R. C. MATTHEWS FAMILY — Written by the Matthews

In September of 1972 R. C. Matthews was on a combination hunting - ranch purchasing expedition. At that time he spoke with Frank and Mable Moore about purchasing their property which is SW 24-37-2-5. They agreed to the sale and the Matthews family consisting of R. C., wife Jean and son Stephen came to live in the Centerville community on October 3, 1973, from Miami, Florida, U.S.A.

R. C. was born in St. Petersburg, Florida and spent his growing up years in New Orleans, Louisiana; Little Rock, Arkansas; Orlando, Florida; and Miami, Florida. He served in the U.S. Naval Air Force during World War II and attended the University of Miami after the war. He received a B. A. degree in Business Administration and worked for Investors Diversified Services until moving to Canada and becoming a rancher. His love of hunting and the outdoors prompted his move to Central Alberta and the Centerville district. Mr. Matthews named the ranch Matthew's Mountain View because of the beautiful mountain view that can be seen from the ridge.

Jean Matthews was born in New York, City, N. Y., and grew up in Ridgewood, New Jersey. While she was attending college at New Jersey College for Women her parents moved to Coral Gables, Florida. She also attended Cornell University and graduated from the University of Miami with a B.S. degree in Nursing.

Son STEPHEN was born in Miami, Florida and attended school there until 1973 when he moved to Canada. Stephen shares the same love of hunting and the outdoors as his Dad.

All the Matthews feel fortunate to have moved into such a friendly community as it has been a great help in their new life.

GEORGE JOSIAS MOORE — supplied by Mrs. Gordon Moore

George Josias Moore was born on September 19th, in the year 1871, at L'Amble, Ontario, one of eight children; five boys and three girls.

He attended local schools and later went to Business College at Bellville, Ontario, in order that he might do bookkeeping and clerking for his uncle, Charlie Moore, who owned a lumber camp at Algoma, Ontario. After serving as clerk for a time, he became foreman of the camp and held this position for a period of twelve years. No doubt it was during these years that he gained his love for the soil and the out-of-doors.

After the twelve years of foreman, he went to Seattle to visit his Uncle and worked in a shipyard at Seattle for a time; then undertook a journey to the Yukon soon after the gold rush of '98. Many a tale he had to tell of this adventure and his sister Sara has a small gold nugget which he brought her on his return.

He went back to Ontario to "find a wife" and in the year 1907, on April 24th, married Linda Symons who was a schoolteacher at Williamstown, Ontario. They were married in the Presbyterian Church at Williamstown by Reverend Govan.

They came west to Saskatchewan and began a homestead one hundred and twenty miles south-west of Saskatoon in 1907, but were not impressed with the prairie land and headed north to the lumber camps in 1908.

In March of 1909, Mr. and Mrs. Moore came west to Red Deer looking for a permanent home. For three months they lived in Red Deer where they stayed in a cabin owned by a Mr. Smith which was located at the rear of his spacious home.

During this time Mr. Moore found a location about twenty miles west of Red Deer which was much to his liking since it had a creek which flowed all year long. This land was located on a ridge which provided a beautiful view of the Rocky Mountains. This original home quarter has had a minimum amount of clearing done on it and is one of the few remaining quarters of land in its original natural state. It provides a home for many a herd of deer, numerous birds, flowers and all creatures common to this part of the country. In the earlier years many many blueberries were picked off this quarter by the family themselves as well as neighbours from surrounding areas.

Their home was a log cabin and the land was cleared with grub hoe and axe until Mr. Moore acquired a horse drawn brush cutter, which was considerably appreciated as the land was covered with poplar and willow trees.

From the original two quarters purchased, the farm was gradually enlarged until at the time of Mr. Moore's death in April of 1949, 960 acres were being farmed.

With the railroad coming ever westward, men and equipment were needed. Mr. Moore sent horses from his farm to aid in this work, and during the First World War, the Government acquired from him a fine team of draft horses which were to go overseas to pull cannons, much to the despair of Mrs. Moore and the children, who had sad visions of the beautiful team being wounded or killed on the battle field.

In the year 1916, a fine new home was built on the farm, close to the old log cabin. It was a two story home with a full basement, having four large bedrooms and a bathroom upstairs and large living room, dining room and kitchen with pantry, also wash-up room and bedroom downstairs. A Delco Plant provided electricity and there were sinks and taps with hot and cold running water. Mr. Moore and a neighbor, some two and a half miles away were the first ones in the district to have the telephone installed.

Mr. Moore was the father of eleven children, and his aim on their behalf was to bring them up to be honest, industrious and neighborly; three examples which he constantly set before them in his own activities. He took his



G. J. Moore family.

family to community functions and opened his home to the neighbors far and near for "dancing and visiting".

Two sisters and a brother came west to live. His brother, Arthur, purchased a quarter of land from George's property and successfully farmed there until the time of his death in 1947. His wife, Grace, and son Frank farmed until 1964, at which time they rented it and moved to Red Deer, where Frank still lives. Mrs. Grace Moore died in February of 1966.

Mrs. Linda Moore, beloved mother of eleven children, respected by all who knew her, was an active member of her community and a good neighbor to all.

Mrs. Moore died in the Richard Parsons Auxiliary Hospital in August of 1973, at the age of 88 and is buried beside her husband in the Red Deer Cemetery.

Following are the names of George and Linda Moore's children in the order of their birth:

Gordon, married and living on the original farm.

Ronald, unmarried and living on the original farm.

Marjorie Willing, living in North Surrey, B.C.

Clifford, unmarried and living in Vancouver.

Kathleen Taylor, living in Red Deer.

Donalda Budvarson, living on farm west of Innisfail.

Noreen Bussard, living in Olds.

Jean Moore, living in Vancouver.

Kenneth, living in Calgary.

Lois Kropinak, living in Lethbridge.

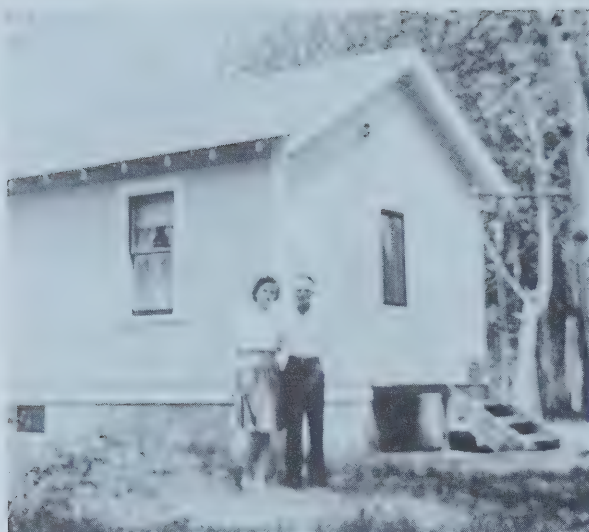
Betty Dennis, living in North Surrey, B.C. There are 27 grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren.

GORDON MOORE — supplied by Mrs. Gordon Moore

In July, 1943 Gordon married Mary Dolphin whom he had met while she was teaching at the Centerville School in 1941-42. A small, two roomed house was built on the home quarter (S.E. ¼ 24T 37R 2 W5th) where his parents lived. Electricity was provided by the 32 volt Delco plant which was in the basement of the big house. There was no running water. Water was carried in pails from the big house which was approximately one hundred yards away. In 1951 Calgary Power was installed.

Gordon, along with his brother Ronald, farmed with their father, George Moore, until 1947 when they rented the farm land from Mr. Moore. When Mr. Moore died in 1949 the four brothers purchased the six quarters from the estate. Gordon and Ronald continued to farm together until June 1973 when they sold the machinery and decided to take things a little easier. About 1940 they began raising Registered Herefords along with their farming operations. Each year they fitted several bulls for the Calgary Bull Sale. As well, the herd was culled each year, and a fine herd of well cared for Hereford cows, along with their calves, could be seen grazing in the 40 acre pasture, north of the farm buildings.

A love of trees is evident in the stand of trees on the home quarter. This provides a refuge for many deer, wild birds and small animals. Wild roses grow in profusion along the long lane leading to the farm buildings. It was from this that the farm has derived its name — Rose Ridge Farm.

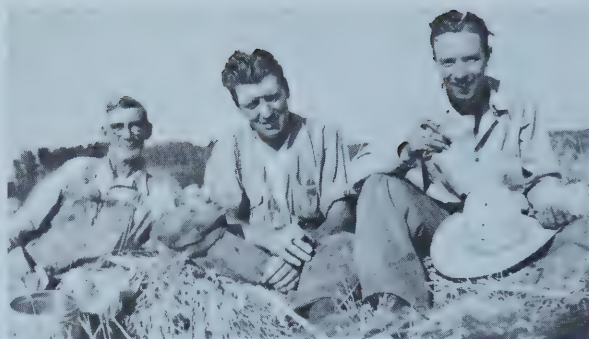


Gordon and Mary Moore, 1944.

In 1963 Gordon purchased the home quarter from his brother Clifford and a modern, three bedroom home was built. There are four children in the family. **Richard**, born in 1947, **Bonnie** in 1950, **Susan** — 1953 and **Bradley**, born in 1956. All the children live fairly close to home excepting Susan who is married to Michael Bentley and resides in New Zealand where she is employed as secretary in a bank. Bonnie is married to James Dick and lives in Lethbridge, Alberta and is employed as a Medical Record Librarian at the Hospital. The youngest son Bradley is in his final year at the Olds Agriculture College.

ARTHUR W. MOORE — written by Frank Moore

In 1916 Arthur W. Moore and his wife Grace E. Moore of Bancroft, Ontario settled on the S.W. ¼ of 24-37-2, W5th, formerly owned by a family named Hogaboam and lived there until Arthur's death in 1947. Mrs. Moore, known as "Aunt Grace" to her many



Art Moore, Phil and Frank Moore.

friends, stayed there with their son, **Frank J.** until her passing in 1966. She was a charter member of the Centerville Women's Club and was the Centerville News correspondent for many years to the Red Deer Advocate. Frank and his wife Mabel, farmed there until 1972 at which time the place was sold to R. C. Matthews of Miami, Florida. Mr. and Mrs. Frank Moore have retired to live in Red Deer.

GUS MANNERFELDT FAMILY — written by Gus Mannerfeldt

In the spring of 1927, Erik Gustaf (Gus) Mannerfeldt left Sweden for Canada to make his home there and arrived at his uncle Erick Mannerfeldt's farm three and a half miles east of Evarts on the 21st day of March the same year.

After working for Uncle Erick one year, Gus and his brother Folke rented their uncle's farm for a few years and in November of 1931, Gus married Olga Selstrom of the Burnt Lake District.

In the year 1934, Gus and Olga moved to the Centerville District and rented R. J. Fanson's farm, N.W. 36-37-2 for a few years and later moved to S.E. 2-38-2-W5th. In 1947 they purchased the present farm, S.E. 25-37-2.

Gus and Olga's marriage was blessed with five children. The oldest is **Stanley** who resides in Edmonton. **Eric** resides on the farm, **Betty Anne**, **Ivy Jean** and **Robert** reside in Red Deer.



Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Moore and son Frank.



Gus Mannerfeldt family.

GEORGE MILNE — written by Janet (Milne) McBride

George and Harriet Milne were married in Morden, Manitoba. In 1903, with daughter **Marion**, they came to homestead on N.E. 14-37-2-5. Their son, **Walter**, was born in Innisfail that year. In 1905, the family was completed by the birth of their daughter **Grace**.

When Marion reached school age, she went to Dauphin, Manitoba to stay with Mrs. Milne's parents for a year. At one time all three children rode on Flora, the horse, to Hola. They also attended Centerville for one year while Walter Northey was teacher.

After living in a low log house for the first few years Mr. Milne then had a house built in 1914. This house is still lived in today.

Marion and Grace both became teachers after attending Normal School at Camrose.

George Milne passed away suddenly in the early 1930's. Mrs. Milne, Grace and her husband, Thorn Hawkins carried on with the farming. Marion married Bill Henderson and moved to California. Walter purchased the Amos Smith homestead to which he later moved after his marriage to Eleanor Hills.

Harriet Milne passed away in 1953.

Marion Henderson resides in Redwood, California and Grace Hawkins lives in Edmonton.

Walter and Eleanor had four children. Marriette married Doug Smith of Knee Hill Valley where they now farm. Ronald travelled extensively before making Vancouver his home, where he passed away in 1975. Douglas married Judy Miller and is living in Red Deer. Janet married Larry McBride and they now live on the home place.



Walter Milne family.

THE NELSON STORY — by Lena Nelson

Mr. and Mrs. Olof Nelson and their son, **Harry**, came from Sweden to Oregon, U.S.A. in 1892. They worked there until 1899 when they decided to come to Canada to find a homestead. They came to the Centerville district and filed on the SW¼ 32-37-1-W5. They moved into a small shack with a sod roof and immediately started to build a good sized log house, bigger than most log houses at that time. They moved into their own home in 1900. They cleared this land with grub hoe and axe and broke most of it with a walking plow.

In the fall, soon as their grain was dry, they stacked it and waited for some threshing machine to come in and thresh it.

When Harry got old enough to homestead, he filed on the SW¼ of 12-37-4-W5 in the New Hill district.

I, Lena Valinder came to Canada in 1910 from Sweden to stay with my Uncle, Aunt and cousins, the Carl Fors family in the Burnt Lake district.

In 1912 I married Harry Nelson. Then in the fall of 1912 Harry bought a big J. I. Case gas tractor and a 28 inch threshing machine. From then on Harry got a long run of threshing from stooks to stack threshing every fall.

Harry sold his homestead in the New Hill district and bought the Alfred Brostrom homestead — the SW¼ 6-38-1-W5.

Harry's Dad and Mother built a new 2 bedroom house on this place where they lived. Our children stayed there with them and went to the Centerville school as this was 1½ miles closer to walk to school.

Harry took over the farming on his own as his parents were semi-retired. Then in 1928 they retired completely and moved to Sylvan Lake where they lived the rest of their life. Grandma passed away in 1954 at the age of 90 and Grandpa passed away in 1956 at the age of 94. They were laid to rest in the Sylvan Lake Cemetery.

In 1928 Harry bought the Richard Trumble place, N.W. of 32-37-1-W5. We moved on to this farm where there was a fairly new house and barn. We continued our farm operation for sometime from this place. Some years later we sold the Brostrom homestead to the William Schafer family from Saskatchewan.

We continued farming the half section until we sold the old homestead to Carl Bergstrom. After this we carried on for sometime and then sold our last place to the Charlie Heins family through the V.L.A.

We retired to the town of Sylvan Lake living there a few years. Then we moved to Red Deer. Harry took sick and passed away in the Red Deer Hospital in 1967 at the age of 78 years.

We had 3 children, Alfred, Inez and Verna.

Alfred married Isabel Hoover of Sylvan Lake. They had one son, Keith who lives in Vancouver, B.C. Isabel passed away after a short illness in 1962. Alfred passed away in 1969.

Inez married Robert Harvey of Red Deer. They had one daughter, Marlene. Robert passed away in 1963, Inez passed away in 1967. Marlene is married and lives in Vancouver with her husband and three daughters.

Verna married Walter Eggen of Blackfalds now living in White Rock, B.C. They have 2 sons, Sheldon and Wayne.

I now make my home with Verna and her family. I am enjoying reasonable good health at the age of 86. I



Home of Olof Nelson and son Harry's Ford.



House where Olof Nelsons retired.

enjoy coming back to breathe fresh Alberta air once a year and to visit friends and neighbors.

BIOGRAPHY OF JOHN ANDRIES OLSON

The above gentleman was locally known as John and the surname "Olson" was used rather than the Danish "Olsen".

John was born on May 22, 1878. His father was a Dane, Wolf Olsen, and his mother was an Iclander, Erun Jonsdottir. The father was manager of a bakery in Denmark.

Mr. Olson had lived for a time in Manitoba before coming to Centerville district with the Sigurdson family. He married the oldest Sigurdson girl "Sigrun".

Their homestead was the S.W. of 22-37-2. Because of the difficulty of crossing the big slough, they spent the first years with Sigrun's parents and their two older children, Regina and Fred attended the Centerville School. Later years, as road conditions improved, they settled on their own land and the children went to the Hola school which was closer.

John was a man who took a keen interest in community affairs. He was a carpenter and helped build the local school and many other buildings locally. He served on the school board. He was a councillor on the Local Improvement District and later a Member of the Council for the Municipal District of Golden West No. 371.

John Olson was also an accomplished vocalist. His talents in this respect were used extensively throughout the Icelandic settlement surrounding Markerville. The musical talents showed up in the children who often provided the music at social gatherings.

The Olsons had eight children. Those living are: **Regina, Fred and Kristine.** Deceased are: **Hannah, Kari, Ethel, Aurora and Lily.**

John passed away on October 31, 1934. His wife, Sigrun, spent her last years in the homes of her two daughters, Regina and Kristine. She had the good fortune to make a visit back to Iceland some years before her death. She died on January 27, 1970.

Mr. and Mrs. Olson rest in the Tindastol Cemetery S. E. of Markerville.

BIOGRAPHY OF FRED PION

Fred Pion was born on May 23, 1880, we believe, in eastern Canada since he was of French extraction. It seems he spent sometime in the United States before

coming to this area as a young man. He homesteaded the SW ¼ of 12-38-2 about 1902 or 1903.

Fred was a great lover of horses and in the early days did considerable freighting from Red Deer to Evarts and other outlying points bringing supplies to the various general stores, later hauling with horses as far west as Rocky Mountain House. He also did a good bit of breaking for other settlers.

In 1910 and 1911, when the railroad then known as the "Canadian Northern" was being built from Rocky Mountain House to Nordegg, Fred was connected with the survey crew.

The Tom Meyer family lived on the Pion farm for several years previous and around the nineteen twenties. Tom took various jobs throughout the district. Several years after Tom's death, Fred married Christine Meyer on February 4, 1948.

Fred died in the Red Deer Hospital on August 27, 1953 and was buried in the Pine Grove Cemetery at Rocky Mountain House, Alberta.

This information was supplied by Christine Mayhew.

BIOGRAPHY OF MICHAEL JOHN QUINN — as told by Alberta Quinn Miller

When my father, Michael John Quinn, first set eyes on the particular area of land which was to become his homestead, he felt that he had indeed reached the "Promised Land." In 1899, he arrived in Red Deer by train, hired a saddle horse and rode out in search of a homestead. The spot he claimed was twenty miles southwest of Red Deer and about halfway between Markerville and Sylvan Lake. The clear, fast flowing creek attracted him and by this stream he camped overnight. In later years, he was to say, "I found good land in Alberta, land with water on it."

Michael John Quinn was the fourth of six sons of Martin James Quinn and his wife, Sara Jane, who migrated to Nova Scotia in the mid 1800s from County Galway, Ireland. The six boys and one daughter were born in Halifax. The boys attended the Christian Brothers School and then became seafaring men, all except Martin James Quinn, the oldest son and his father's namesake. He went inland and joined the Northwest Mounted Police and later the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Force. He was stationed at Fort Macleod.

Michael John after a few years at sea decided in favor of the land and toured the United States. In Iowa, he met and married Lucinda McAnelly in the year 1890. She had descended from Irish forebears who came to the United States in 1790 from Antrim County, North Ireland. She was born in Iowa on April 13, 1868.

This young couple homestead in Butte, Nebraska, where Martin Emmet, Eugene Floyd and Clyola Fay were born. During their years in Nebraska, the family received letters from Martin James in Alberta. He wrote temptingly of rich soil on free land. So it was that Michael John came to Alberta to see for himself. More than pleased with what he found, he returned to Nebraska to sell out and bring his family to Alberta in the spring of 1900.

There were several Fitch families, related, and the Sigurdson families living in the vicinity and in those early days all helped each other in neighborly fashion. In a building "bee" a log house went up by the stream on the

Quinn place, later a barn and other buildings. Abundant wild hay was put up for stock, and wild berries, the blueberry, cranberry and the saskatoon canned for winter. Wild game was plentiful; prairie chickens, ducks, geese, and there were deer and moose.

In November of that year, 1900, I, Alberta, was born in the log house on the homestead. A few years later, father built a frame house with a wide veranda and painted the house yellow. The house stood on a gentle slope facing the Rocky Mountains to the west. About this time, Charles Quinn, a brother of father's, left the seas and came to Alberta with his family. He homesteaded on land adjoining ours near the cranberry marsh. But this turned out to be but a temporary venture for Uncle Charles who soon returned to Halifax and the sea. A family by the name of Hoggeboom from Los Angeles then occupied this homestead for a time, then when they moved back to the United States, the Arthur Moore family bought the place.

Since there was no school in our district, my brother Emmet for part of a year boarded with the Icelandic poet, Stephen G. Stephanson and his family and attended the Hola School near Markerville.

It was not long until father, the men of the Fitch families and some of the other neighbors organized and built Centerville School which was located about three miles from our place toward Sylvan Lake. Emmet then attended this school, along with Eugene, the Fitch children. Ethel Drennan was one of Centerville's first teachers and she was much beloved by pupils and parents.

This little grey frame school house with its wall-bracket kerosene lamps became a community meeting house wherein church, Sunday School and socials were held. We loved the life in the country. There were picnics in summer at Yankee Flats and at Sylvan Lake. There were no buildings at the lake then except those on the Petro farm beyond the lakeside grove of trees. The woodland was fresh, green and unmarred.

The family trips into Red Deer were another joy. Along the dirt roads we drove, sometimes in a wagon, or democrat or buggy, and in winter we went by sleigh with sleigh bells jingling all the way. Father entertained us with stories of how he had forded the Red Deer River before the bridge was built. He told us that one spring the river was so high that horses and wagon were almost swept downstream but his strong greys breasted the current and swam to shore with wagon and all, though groceries were floating in the water in the wagon box.

This fording of the river was before my time. I remember the grove we would drive around, and there would be the new bridge. To the naive eyes of us children it might have been London Bridge crossing the Thames. And the glimpse of Red Deer lying across the river was as wondrously fair as London Town. When we went into the dry goods store, Brumpton and Gaetz, we were dazzled by the merchandise and we recklessly spent our carefully hoarded five cent pieces. The family often stayed two nights at a hotel and returned to the farm the third day, as twenty miles by team was an all day journey.

Another source of pleasure in our childhood was listening to the adventure tales of Uncle Martin, the Mountie, after he and his wife, Adella, and their small

son, Edward came to live with us while he was building a house on his homestead which was a mile down the road from our place toward Markerville. He had resigned from the police force which he had served from 1883 until he went to the Boer War in 1898. He had been with those who brought in the rebel, Louis Riel. Through the nineties, Uncle Martin had been champion snowshoer of the Yukon. Then he went to Africa with Lord Strathcona's Horse with a contingent of Canadian Mounted Police. At the war's conclusion, Uncle Martin was honored in England by Queen Victoria along with other Canadian men for their outstanding service in the war. Upon his return to Halifax he was married and lived there until he decided to come back to Alberta and take up a homestead. After Uncle Martin, Aunt Adella and Edward were living on their own place, a second son, Clarence, was born there.

Our wonderful life on the homestead was destined to come soon to an end. The family knew its first tragedy in the death of Clyola Fay in December, 1901. Then our mother Lucinda, died suddenly on July 9, 1904. At first the two graves were made on the homestead, then when the new cemetery opened in Red Deer, the bodies were interred there.

Father sold the farm and moved to Red Deer about 1905. Our homestead subsequently became the farm home of the George Moore family and, as it happened, our yellow, frame house burned to the ground before they had a chance to move into it.

In Red Deer, father acquired the Great West Hotel and two residences in the same block with the hotel. There was also a livery stable and some other property behind the hotel. The houses were rented and father ran the hotel and a livery stable. The hotel was a box-like building of two storeys, painted white and with a broad veranda across the front. The dining room windows looked out on a grove of poplar trees which shaded a swimming hole where the boys went swimming.

We had an excellent cook in the hotel. Our family had its meals at our own table in the dining room. What meals there were with no thought of mounting calories to inhibit us! For breakfast, there would always be oatmeal porridge, then ham, bacon, eggs, toast, hot cakes and stewed fruit. But we could never partake of any other food but porridge at breakfast because of father's insistence that we eat oatmeal first. After that there was neither hunger nor room for anything else. But we made up for this at other meals, as the menu offered steaks, roasts, fish, vegetables, and a great variety of pies all made of dried fruit. Emmet and I have never forgotten the lavish and delicious food in the Great West Hotel.

I began my school career in an old photograph studio across a grassy, vacant square from our hotel. The school room ceiling was a slanting, glass sky light and I can still remember how its glare pained our eyes when we tried to focus on our primers as we laboriously pounded out our abc's. A Miss Wallace was my first grade teacher.

Emmet and Eugene attended the old brick school which was both elementary and high school. When the new elementary school was finished, we all attended there and then the old brick school became solely the high school.

The first automobiles appeared in Red Deer, gleaming red and brassy. But they never got very far before

their proud owners had to appeal for help from the Quinn livery stable and then the grandeur of the new motor cars was reduced to shame as horses supplied the locomotion that the cars suddenly lacked.

Well, do I remember the Purdey Furniture Store fire after a Christmas program one night at the Presbyterian church which was just across the street from the store. Flames soared in the wind lighting the whole sky. There was the acrid smell of burning glue and varnish. There was shattered plate glass scattered on sidewalk and street for days afterwards.

Once at a church picnic held in a grove across the Red Deer River, out of the woods came a solitary Indian clad in buckskin. He glided to a picnic table, took up a loaf of bread and began eating it. Then he lifted a pitcher of cold tea and drank it all right from the lip of the pitcher. Without a word he disappeared into the forest leaving the picnickers completely silenced in astonishment.

Often on celebration days, our hotel lobby was filled with Indian women sitting cross-legged on the floor, papooses on their backs and bright beaded work spread out for sale at their feet. While living in the hotel, I was often derided by my school chums because the Great West Hotel had no saloon as did the other hotels in town. I recall tearfully begging father to add a saloon to our hotel, but to no avail. So our hotel never became socially elite to rank among the other hotels.

We children sometimes played in the brickyard. In winter we gloried in the colorful ice carnivals, and most evenings we clattered over board sidewalks, depot-bound, to see the train roaring in from Calgary.

But as our life on the homestead had been brought to a close, so was our life in the hotel to come to an end. The panic of 1906-1908 was sweeping the North American continent. Our boarders left. The hotel was closed. We moved into the now vacant corner house. While living here, father was married to Rose Koshman who had come to Red Deer from the Edmonton locality. Father, trying to bring some greenery into our lives such as we had on the farm, transplanted young evergreens from the bank of the Red Deer River and bordered our yard with these small trees. But we were never to see these trees grow tall, because in the fall of 1908 we moved to British Columbia. The Red Deer property was disposed of and later the CPR laid tracks on the land where the livery barn had stood.

In 1913, we left British Columbia and moved to Spokane, Washington. To my father's second marriage were born a daughter, **Elsie**, and two sons, **Ernest** and **Thomas**. After a long life of 92 years, Michael John Quinn died in Spokane in 1958. Brother Eugene had long ago lost his life at the age of 23 in 1919 in an accident in the Pacific northwest coastal region. Emmet Quinn from the time he returned from service in the First World War was a wheat rancher in Montana and is now retired and lives near Havre.

Uncle Martin sold his homestead soon after we moved from the farm in Alberta. He lived with his family in Calgary until he died in 1916. We last heard of his son, Edward, living in the Peace River country and of Clarence living in the Turner Valley area. A daughter whom we never knew was born to Uncle Martin and Aunt Adella in Calgary.

For years, my home has been in suburban Seattle and though the world has greatly changed since my childhood, I still hold close in treasured memory the newness, the freshness and the adventure of pioneer days in Alberta in the early 1900s.

BIOGRAPHY OF THE SHAW FAMILY — as told by J. D. and G. E. Munro

Alfred Sydney Shaw was born in Manchester, England, in 1885. He came to Canada when he was ten years old and was raised by his aunt in Ontario. He came west in 1902 and took up a homestead in the Centerville area — 7 miles south of Sylvan Lake. He was a very progressive mixed farmer and some apple trees he brought from Ontario still remain and produce apples.

In 1906 he returned to Ontario and married Eliza Ann Carew who was born and raised in Omeeme near Peterborough, Ontario.

They remained on the homestead till 1920 and moved to Red Deer.

He went into partnership with Donald Smith and the Smith and Shaw Company was formed. They handled Cockshutt implements, Singer Sewing Machines, Canadian Oils and Gas and many other general items. The original building still stands on the corner of 50 Street and 51 Avenue.

He sold his interest in that company in 1929 and took over the pool hall which was across the street from the Club Cafe.

In 1939 he retired to gardening and lodge work and was a master in his work.

He was a life member in the Elks and Orange lodges and served two terms on City Council. He passed on January 14, 1960, at the age of 85. Mrs. Shaw who was also very active working in the Lady's Orange Lodges and anything else that needed a helping hand, died December 6, 1963.

They had one daughter, **GLADYS EDNA**, who married J. D. Munro in 1935 and still lives in Red Deer. There are two grandchildren, Marlene Coleman of Calgary and Ronald Munro of Red Deer, also 5 great-grandchildren.



Mr. and Mrs. A. S. Shaw.

WILLIAM SCHAFER FAMILY — by Juliana Schafer

William (Bill) Joseph Schafer was born June 12, 1892 in Peru, Illinois. He was the second of three sons and one daughter born to Katarina and Joseph Schafer who had emigrated from Germany.

In 1905 the family bought a hotel-garage business in Ryon, Manitoba. Bill left home in his twenties and ran a grain elevator in Roxton, Manitoba. When the grain dust started to affect his health, Bill went into business with a partner in Brandon, Manitoba, installing lightning rods and learning the carpenter trade. He became a skilled carpenter, specializing in finishing work.

In 1926 the family bought a farm in Margo, Saskatchewan. Within a few months Bill started farming on his own on a neighboring quarter of land.

William married Annie Theresa Wozine on October 28, 1930. Annie was born October 10, 1912 on the family farm in the Kamsack-Saskatchewan area. Her parents, Metro and Anastasia Wozine had come from the Ukraine to homestead in Saskatchewan in 1897. Annie is the second of twelve children.

All of Bill and Annie's children were born in Wadena, Saskatchewan: **Arnold**, July 24, 1932; **Roy**, February 25, 1934; **Clifford**, December 6, 1935; **Mervin**, February 19, 1937; and **Rose**, April 21, 1942.

Drought, frost, and hail led to the decision to try their luck farming in Alberta. In 1946 the family moved to a quarter section of land (S.W. 6-38-1-W.5) in the Centerville district. The land was purchased from Pete Ammeter. To augment the farm income, Bill did carpentry work in the Red Deer area. He spent two years doing finishing work in the houses built for married air force personnel at the Penhold Air base.

In 1957 Mr. and Mrs. Schafer and Rose moved to Red Deer. They rented the land to a neighbor and later sold it to Duke Bell. They then bought a house in Red Deer.

William Schafer died January 8, 1967. Annie kept her home until 1975 when she sold it and bought a mobile home. She now (1976) resides at a trailer court in Red Deer. She keeps busy at her job as a hotel housekeeper.

When the boys first left home they worked on neighboring farms, but eventually all except Roy worked on the oil rigs for some time.



Mr. and Mrs. William Schafer.



The four sons of Mr. and Mrs. William Schafer, 1953 (Rose missing).

Arnold went to Australia in October, 1962 as a driller for a Canadian oil company. He returned to Canada in August, 1965 with a great enthusiasm for Australia, a wife Lucy, and a six year old stepson, Wayne Martin. As they had only visitors visas, Lucy and Wayne had to return to Australia in December. On July 31, 1966 a son, Darrell, was born to Lucy and Arnold at Toowoomba, Australia. After many unsuccessful attempts to obtain papers to bring his family to Canada permanently, Arnold sold his farm at Cherhill, Alberta and immigrated to Australia in April of 1970. He worked in Australia, New Zealand, and parts of the East Indies for an Australian based oil company. A severe heart attack in 1974 forced him to stop work for about a year, but he is now once again running a rig.

Roy married Juliana Dallaire of the Burnt Lake District on August 8, 1955. At that time they moved to Kitimat, B.C. where Roy worked for the Aluminum Co. of Canada at the smelter. Their daughter Nancy, was born July 6, 1956 and a son Stephen arrived March 3, 1958. Although Kitimat was an interesting and fine place to live and life-long friendships were made, Roy wished to return to farming. In 1960 the family returned to Red Deer. They bought their present farm east of Penhold in 1961.

Clifford drove a truck in Red Deer after leaving home. He married Joyce Scott of the Westholm district June 12, 1957. She died as the result of a tragic car accident in July of 1958. Clifford was married May 30, 1959 to Patricia McNutt of Red Deer. Clifford and Pat have three children: Peggy Anne born March 28, 1960; Donna, born January 17, 1962; and Joseph, born January 12, 1963. Clifford took special training and did core testing for oil companies. He travelled extensively throughout Alberta, and parts of B.C. and Saskatchewan, as few men in Alberta were qualified to do this type of work. At this time the family lived in several northern Alberta communities. They now reside permanently in Fort St. John, B.C.

On July 15, 1966, Mervin married Janet Boye of Kevisville. Their son Mikkell was born July 5, 1967 and daughter Laura was born October 27, 1968. Mervin has a son, Daniel, born in 1959 from a previous marriage. For the past several years Mervin has done maintenance

work and driving for a trucking firm near Spruceview. He and his family reside in the Kevisville district.

Rose married Max Taylor who now farms in the Leedale district. For several years Max worked full-time on the oil rigs. Rose and Max have two children: Gary born January 6, 1961 and Sharlene born November 4, 1964.

BIOGRAPHY OF KRISTJAN SIGURDSON

Kristjan Sigurdson was born in Iceland on June 15, 1850. His father was Sigurdur Bjarnason who lived in Fellseli in Koldukinn in Pingeyjarsyslu. His mother was Sigurbjorg Sigurdardottir. Kristjan and his wife left Iceland in 1882 and after five weeks of travel arrived in Winnipeg where he took work as a labourer. In 1883 he entered into partnership with his brother who had a farm at Argyle (now Baldur). In 1887 he bought a farm of his own in that area where he stayed until 1901.

There were seven children born to this union. Picture enclosed shows the entire family taken before they left Manitoba.

At this point we must mention that one son, **Johannes**, remained in Manitoba with an uncle and still lives there, having inherited the uncle's property.

The Sigurdson family arrived in Alberta April 21, 1921. As has been stated elsewhere, Kristjan homesteaded the N.W. ¼ of Section 22-T37-R2 and purchased the S.E. ¼ of Section 27-T37-R2. The farm home was built of logs on this latter quarter in 1902. In the meantime the family lived in a sod house on an adjoining piece of land. A picture is enclosed of the log house. A new modern house was built in 1924 where descendants of the family still reside. If we may be allowed to include an amusing note—when the log house was built, the southeast corner was a few feet out on the road allowance. This was an error of judgment which could easily happen because of the difficulty and labour involved in following survey lines. We may also add that the error was of little consequence as for many years this was a dead end road. Much could be written concerning early experiences and difficulties common to the pioneers which we must omit because of repetition. However, we can say that the Sigurdsons settled on rather low lying land bordering the



Kristjan Sigurdson family, 1901.



Log house of Kristjan Sigurdson and family.

big slough and were therefore more subject to heavy frost and cold winter blasts than those who settled on higher ground where there was more timber shelter. We should mention in particular the severe winter of 1906-1907.

Because of the abundance of wild hay and pasture on unoccupied land in the early years, the Sigurdsons soon acquired a large number of horses, cattle and sheep. It can be said there were few Icelandic families who did not have a flock of sheep in those years. We must pay tribute to the honesty and industry of the entire Sigurdson family, characteristics quite common to their race. Over the years the Sigurdsons acquired other land and became well established.

Kristjan Sigurdson died on September 23, 1925 and his wife died on January 24, 1941. Descendants still living of the first generation are **Johannes**, of Baldur, Manitoba. **Franklin** of Red Deer who died on March 25, 1976.

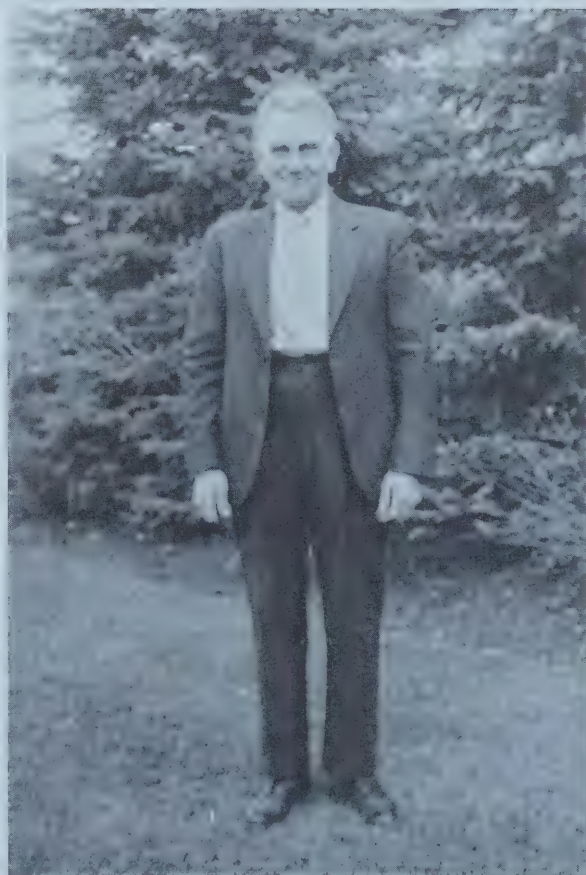
This information was supplied by a granddaughter, Regina Olson Johansson.

BIOGRAPHY OF ALFONSI SIGURDSON

Alfonsi Sigurdson, better known as Fonci, was a son of Kristjan Sigurdson. He was born in Manitoba on December 5, 1891, and came to Alberta with his parents in 1901. His death took place here on July 3, 1956.

Fonci began serving his apprenticeship as a blacksmith under F. E. Good about 1909 at Evarts and Rocky Mountain House, after which he operated a shop at the farm home for a short period.

In 1913 he purchased a shop in Markerville, batching in a little addition at the back. In 1917 Fonci built a new shop. He lived above the shop. Equipment in the new shop was power driven by a gas engine which eased the heavy work considerably. We recall Fonci remarked to



Alfonsi Sigurdson.



Alfonsi Sigurdsons new shop, Markerville.

E. B. Fitch that with the new equipment he could make \$20.00 as easily as he made \$8.00 before. We recall that Fonci had a measure of success with a horse drawn brushcutter which he constructed during his early years in the shop at Markerville. Several of these machines were used in the area.

Fonci was a steady worker and did well in the business. If we could say he had a fault, it was being too kind-hearted. As a result, some accounts were probably never collected.

Before moving to Markerville, Fonci bought a Hudson Bay quarter, S.W. of Section 26-37-2-W5. With the help of his brothers, he got some under cultivation and it was farmed for a time by a colored man named Fred Hall.

About 1916 or 1917, Fonci also bought the S.W. ¼ of Section 23-37-2. In 1932 Fonsi married Kav Noble. There were two children Jean and John.

He got considerable pleasure from a Chev. coupe which he bought in 1925.

Because of ill health, Fonci sold the Markerville business to Charlie Brown in 1941 and retired on the farm. We enclose a picture of Fonci taken in 1945.

As previously mentioned, he passed away on July 3, 1956. He is buried in the Tindastol Cemetery, southeast of Markerville.

This information was supplied by a niece, Regina Olson Johansson.

BIOGRAPHY OF SIGURDUR SIGURDSON

Sigurdur Sigurdson, called Sigg, was the eldest son of Kristjan Sigurdson. He was born in Manitoba in 1888 and came to the Centerville district with the family in 1901.

We do not recall that Sigg ever attended the Centerville school as he was well past the age by the time the local school was in operation. We do remember however, that he was at a picnic with other members of the family. This gathering was held during the second school year.

Sigg lived at home and farmed with the family until about 1917, then purchased the SE ¼ of 34-37-2 where he and his wife Jennie Stephenson, settled after their marriage on June 11, 1920.

Sigg and Jennie had one daughter, **Edna**, who was born on June 30, 1923.

The farm was their home until Sigg's death in 1940.

The son-in-law, Ed Potter, operated the place for a year or two and Jennie continued to live there. However, in December of 1963, the farm was sold to Russell Fitch.

Mrs. Sigurdson had never enjoyed good health. Her sunset years were spent in the West Park Nursing Home at Red Deer, Alberta. She passed away on June 24, 1969. The daughter, Edna died on April 19, 1972.

CHRIS AND FRANK SIGURDSON — by Mae Sigurdson

Frank and Chris, the two younger sons of Kristjan and Johanna Sigurdson came with their parents in 1901 to the Markerville district from Baldur, Manitoba. Frank was born in 1893 and Chris in 1895. They both attended Centerville school. Frank was a barber attending Barber school in Edmonton, he cut hair for his relations and friends for many years. Chris spent some time in England in World War I, returning in June 1919. They took over the family farm and farmed there all their lives. They had cattle and milked cows, as well as some grain farming.

To name a few of the hired help they had, there were Bill Bowerman, Bill Dennis, Jock Allan and Vernon Johnson.

One of the nearest neighbours was Fred Hall who in 1934 farmed the place just across the road. When they thought it was too cold, Fred would drive to Markerville with his team and bring back supplies for himself and the Sigurdsons.

In 1928 Chris married Margaret Mae Brown. They had a family of five; **Norman** of Baldur, Manitoba; **Doris** lives near Innisfail; **Frank** living on the land homesteaded by his Grandfather; **Elmer** farming at home and **Wilma** who lives in Calgary.

Chris and Frank enjoyed attending Auction sales. They enjoyed very much the occasional visits from their sister Sarah, and her husband (Mr. and Mrs. S. J. Hansen) of Ontario.

Chris passed away in December 1955 and is buried in Innisfail Cemetery.

Frank passed away in March 1976 and is buried in Tindastoll Cemetery.



Frank Sigurdson at barber school in Edmonton.



Chris Sigurdson in uniform.

BIOGRAPHY OF THOMAS THOMPSON

Thomas Thompson, second son of Soren Peter and Anne Hansen Thomsen was born in Hunderred Hjorring Amt in Denmark on October 2, 1879. His father moved his family to the United States of America about the year of 1890.

It was a big event for eleven year old Thomas. "O, how those English boys in Liverpool pelted us with mud and stones". Thomas would recall. The little tow headed Danish farm boys must have been amusing to those English lads. Thomas did lose one wooden shoe in the ocean as he stood swinging his foot through the rail of the ship. So he entered America wearing one coarsely knit woolen stocking and one wooden shoe. Thomas became a naturalized United citizen in 1904 and proved up on a homestead in 1907 signed by Theadore Roosevelt and later took another homestead in 1911.

Thomas Thompson married Ingrid Marie Peterson on September 30, 1903. The windstorms that blew the corn out of the field and into the fence corners along with the tumbling tumble weeds and bawling cattle discouraged the hard working young Thompsons. The hard clay canyons that hadn't felt rain since the flood remained unyielding to plow and cultivator. He would just up and leave those empty water troughs and creaking windmills and move to the much advertised land of promise and perpetual sunshine, namely, Sunny Alberta, Canada. So, on March 14, 1914, Thomas held a sale west of Maxwell, Nebraska. They kept some of their household goods, farm machinery and best stock, which was loaded into freight cars headed for Alberta.

After weeks of shunting back and forth and delay at customs, the Thompsons arrived at Red Deer, a small town in 1914.

Thomas bought a farm from Edwin Fitch located on the Northwest $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 24-T37-R2. The buildings on this farm were one two story house, one room downstairs, and one room upstairs with a tin stove pipe leading all the way through to the roof. There was a log cow shed with a flat straw covered roof which the rain got through periodically. The pig pen was at one time some homesteaders log cabin, and then there was a log barn for horses that bragged of a hay mow. Thomas Thompson and family settled into this atmosphere and was soon busy making their home. Later land bought from the Canadian Pacific Railway and other sources brought the Thompson acreages up to five quarters of land. Neighbours came to welcome this new family into their midst.

There were Howard Samuel, Vyvyan Irene, Bernard Thomas, Etta Margaret, born in Nebraska. Orvan Henry and Rosella Alberta were both born on the farm in Centerville. The Thompsons soon blended into the Centerville family environment of baseball practice for the boys, school picnics for the whole family. Christmas parties, school board meetings and Saturday fun. Last but not least on the list was the eternal toiling in the soil to make a living and be an asset to the community that welcomed them so warmly. The dollar wheat was a rainbow in the sky for Thomas and was always just out of his reach.

These were the days when one would walk a mile to borrow a cup of sugar or a bottle of coal oil for one's lamp. Many a fresh loaf of bread or vegetables from her garden or a dozen eggs were carried by Mary to a sick or needy neighbour. There were those in Centerville that received their first spanking by Mary as she worked as midwife and then stayed on for ten days to care for mother and baby. Thomas and Howard spent long hours helping the neighbours build culverts and lay corduroys to make roads run straight North and South, East and West.

The years rolled on and all too soon the children either married or moved away to get an education elsewhere. Thomas and Mary found themselves alone



Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Thompson.

once more. The years began to tell on them and no longer could they handle the many chores around the farm.

Old pastures beckoned and once more Mary and Thomas held an auction sale, this time on March 28, 1951. They said good-bye to old neighbours and moved back to Nebraska, this time to North Platte. Thomas stayed in this "good land" too long so lost his U.S.A. citizenship. He entered the United States under the Danish Immigration Quota.

He fulfilled his last years at North Platte and died there and was buried beside Mary, west of Maxwell, Nebraska—a few miles from his former homestead. Howard remained in Alberta and is now deceased. Vy-vyan lives alone in Niles Michigan, a retired registered nurse. Bernard practiced dentistry in Oregon and is now deceased. Etta is a retired housewife and lives in Berrien Springs, Michigan. Orvan lives in Madison, Tennessee and is a professional photographer. Rosella passed away in early childhood and rests in the Burnt Lake Cemetery.

This information was supplied by Etta Thompson Patterson.

BIOGRAPHY OF GUSTAV WALTER

Gustav Walter was born on his father's homestead on June 12, 1912 near Hilda, Alberta. He married Esther Maier and they settled on a farm at Horsham, Saskatchewan where they remained for ten years.

In the fall of 1950, Gustav, his wife, and older son **Gordon**, came to Red Deer looking for land.

They bought the north half of Section 24-T-37-R2 from Thomas Thompson where they have remained until the present time. However, they spent the first winter at Sylvan Lake, taking possession of the farm in April of 1951.

During the years they brought the balance of the east quarter under cultivation. Besides farming, they also established a good Holstein dairy herd.

In March of 1952 their second son, **Norman**, was born in Red Deer. Norman married Jane Peabody. They have one daughter, Brandi Lee. They reside at Kimberley, B.C.

The third son, Leslie Bruce, was born in September of 1957 and is at present living at home with his parents.

Gustav's oldest son, Gordon, bought the north half of Section 23-37-2 from Ron and Gordon Moore in 1972 which land he has since farmed.

In June of 1974, Gustav and Esther sold their dairy herd and machinery and are presently retired on the farm. We should mention that they have a modern home which they built several years ago.

This information was supplied by Gustav Walter.

MR. AND MRS. H. ARTHUR WALKER — contributed by Fred Walker

Came from Sibbald, Alberta on April 3, 1936, leaving behind home and land like many others, dried out for so many years with no crops or pastures and long hard winters, were forced to leave most everything they had worked so hard for, for twenty years and look for somewhere to make their new home. Arthur came up in 1934 and looked the Central Area over and worked for a short time for Herb Welton, the land is now owned by the Hagerman Brothers just south of Sylvan Lake. Fred, the



Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Walker with daughter Dora.



Fred Walker cutting wood.

older son, came here in the fall of 1935 to harvest north of Sylvan Lake and Rimbey area. He later baled hay in the Cygnet Lake area for Herb Welton, thus located the piece of land the family purchased from Cliff Hooey, the SW of section 19-T37-R1-W5. He returned for Christams to Sibbald.

They decided to move up in the spring and had 2 box cars of stock, machinery and belongings to be unloaded at Sylvan Lake. Moved out to the L. Z. Mederies place (where John Ammeter now lives) to live until a house could be built as the land was all native brush. When they moved to this area there were 2 boys, Fred and Jack and one girl, Iris. Leaving behind one girl, **Dora**, who was married and farming in the Sibald area. Jack and Iris attended Centerville school for several years. Then when



Jack, Dora, Iris and Fred Walker.

New Hola was open on the land, now owned by Gunnar Nielson. Iris went there for two years. As time went on they drilled a well and cleared some land by hand, renting the SE ¼ of 19 to have some ready farm land. Mrs. Walker (Ethel) was active in the Centerville womens Club and kept a big garden.

In 1945, **Fred** married Lily Stewart of Calgary. She spent her younger years 1½ miles north of Markerville and when they married they farmed the old Milne place where their oldest daughter Pat was born. The land is now owned by Bud Murray. Then they moved to Red

Deer where they still live, with five girls and 1 boy. Pat, Lucille, Eleanor, Bonnie, Joe and Shelly. Now they are all married, except Shelly who is still going to school. Fred being an ardent hunter, scores big game heads and antlers for the North American Boone and Crocket competition also probably the only one that has shot a Black bear on Gaetz avenue in Red Deer, which he did in 1973. Fred has been in the grain cleaning business around Red Deer since 1945 and still operates from his home there and works part time for the Fish and Wildlife.

Jack served with the R.C.A.F. from 1942 to 1945, spending 2 years over seas where he met and married Connie Wilson. After the war he worked for 6 or 7 years with the Provincial Forestry on the Clearwater and Red Deer where they had two children, Wayne and Shirley. Wayne works in Vancouver and Shirley in Red Deer where they are both married and have families. Jack now lives at Blackfalds and works for the post office. **Iris** is married and lives in White Rock, B.C. and has 5 children, 2 of them are married. Dora now lives in Didsbury and has three children.

In 1951, Arthur sold out and had an auction sale and moved to Red Deer. He passed on in 1956 and Ethel in 1963. Before he came to Canada from England he served with the Active Army in India from 1903 to 1905. He came to Canada in 1908 to Manitoba and then to Calgary. In 1912 he filed on a homestead at Sibbald in the meantime he was in a dray delivery business in Calgary. In 1914 when the World War broke out he was called back to England to serve the York and Lank regiment for active service in France, and was wounded in 1916 and discharged. He was married to Ethel Mosley in 1915 and moved to Canada in 1916 after finishing in the services where he was working in Calgary through the winter and went to the homestead in 1917. Ethel spent her younger years after school working in a quilt factory and was active in church work.

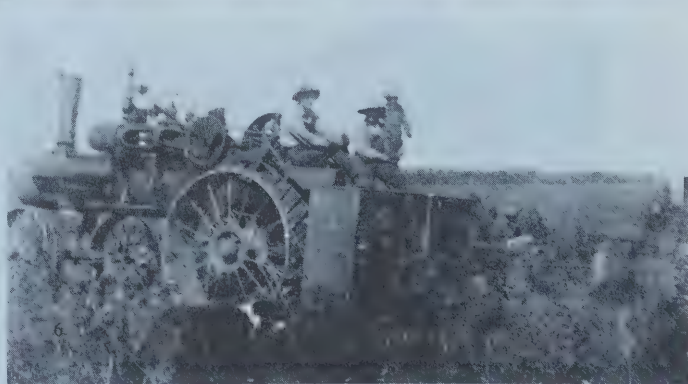


School play.

School children I and II 1942.

Ladies' club early 30's.

Cutting the cake, 50th anniversary Community Club.



J. S. Fitch on son's farm 1934.

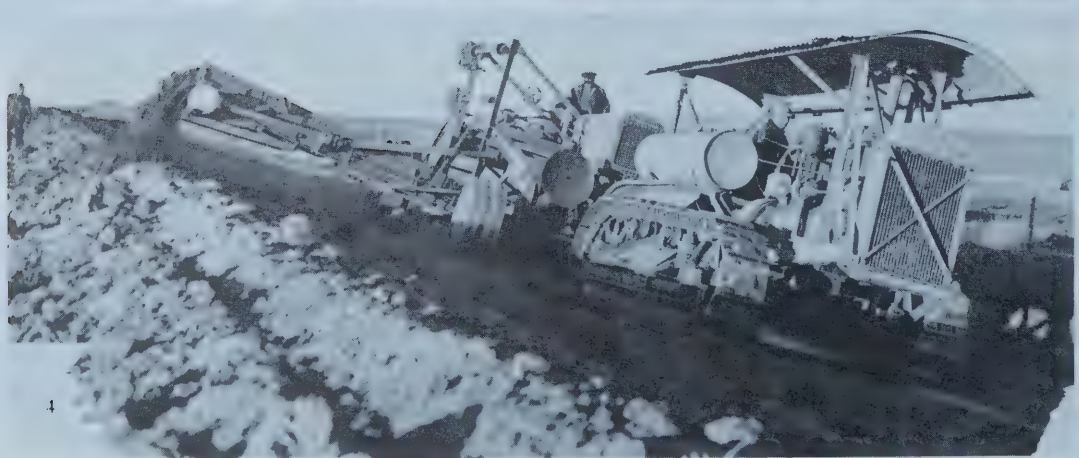
Jim Clarkins on binder.

George and Guy Fitch, Fred Grimson center on new disc 1924.

Gordon Fitch, speedy travel.

W. Shephard Sr., Grandson David Hodges.

Dan Fitch pulling stumps. J. S. Fitch and Jimmy Tobin on tender.



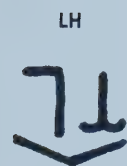
Centennial picture 1967.

Ladies centennial 1967.

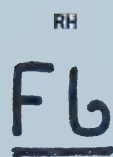
Road gang 1929, Ed Valli on cat.

George Fitch and E. Holmgren 1938.

CENTERVILLE BRANDS



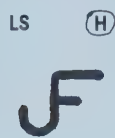
H. S. Bystrom



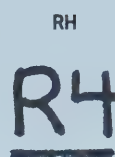
E. B. Fitch
1917



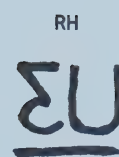
G. E. Fitch



J. S. Fitch
1900



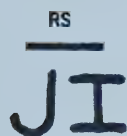
J. S. Fitch
1900



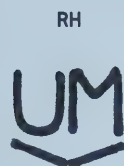
O. D. Fitch
1905



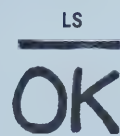
R. W. Fitch



J. Heth



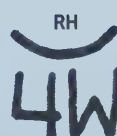
G. Johanson



G. J. Moore



G. J. Moore



G. Walter



Earl Hilman



Emil Hilman



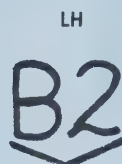
P. Hilman



M. Hilman



Albert Bystrom



E. Bergstrom
C. Bergstrom

PINE HILL

PINE HILL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 551 — by Leonard Bystrom

At the turn of the century pioneers of this area saw the need of a school. They borrowed money to start the building under the supervision of H. Reinholt and Herman Gates and other local help. Some of the school furniture was also built. In 1901 the original school board was made up of the late Kris Johnson, Angus Martin, O. Sigurdson and John Johnson.

The name chosen for this new district was Pine Hill as there was one lone pine standing among the spruce near the school.

The first teacher was Mr. Campbell. The first pupils to attend school were Howard, Harold and Elizia Lepard; Oliver, Peter, Alfreda and Inga Johnson; Elmer, Cora, Rosie, and Mary Petro; John and Donald Martin; Walter and Harry Clement; Sidney and Grace Johnson; Rooney, Thomas, Cecelia and Struna Sigurdson.

Subsequent teachers were: Mina Cole, Miss Goodmanson, Miss Sproule, Miss Maxwell, Struna Sigurdson, Jessie Dixon, Mary Morrisroe, Allan Wright, Miss Butler, Mrs. Willard Martin, Doris Harper, Robert Moore, Jessie Graham, Kathleen Orr, Anna Anderson, Irene Madison, Aileen Hilman, Sylvia Kaiser, Mrs. Annie Martin, Olive Johanson, Margaret Gronnestad, Mildred Erickson, Gail Smith, Ralph Seland, and Joyce Barker as the last teacher. These teachers are not listed in the order of their service.



Pine Hill School — 1936-37, Grades 1, 2, and 3. L. to R. back row — Jackie Martin, Eddie Nelson, Howard Gates, Gordon Nelson, Donald Bain, and Gilbert Hambrook. Front row — Lois Gillette.



Pine Hill School — 1936-37, Grades 4, 5, and 6. Back row: L. to R. — Eva Smith, Peggy Gillette, and Florence Hambrook. Front row: L. to R. — Harold Smith, Wayne Gillette, Peter Waters, Stanley Smith, Michael Waters, and Harry and Roy Ramsay.

In 1930, a new school was built taking the place of the old log school.

Over the years, there were social activities such as wedding dances, box and pie socials and dances to raise money to help with various projects in the school such as a new piano, baseball equipment and the installation of electricity. Church services, political meetings and elections were also held.



Pine Hill School — 1936-37, Grades 7, 8, and 9. L. to R. Back row: Norman Long, Jean and Ken Gillette, and Max Gates. Front row: Betty Jean Martin, Florence Long, Betty Stephenson, Nora Nelson, and Elaine Gates.



Pine Hill baseball team — 1937-38. L. to R. standing: Roy and Harry Ramsay, Peter and Michael Waters, Stanley Smith, Wayne Gillette, and Harold Smith. Sitting: Max Gates, Ken Gillette, and Norman Long.

In 1946, Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Swainson started Sunday School classes with a very good attendance. In 1953, they were killed in a car accident near Wetaskawin on their way to the U.F.A. convention in Edmonton. Sunday School was then carried on by my wife, Ida and myself with the help of Mrs. Kay Johnson and Mrs. Margaret Hambrook until the fall of 1956 when the children were all bussed to Sylvan Lake. This ended all activities in the Pine Hill district.

The last pupils to attend school were Louise, Marlene and Wendel Smith, Kenneth Johnson, Mary Lynn Sigurdson, Judy and Dale Ziola, David, Beverly and Clifford Johnson, Jim and Robert Johnson, and Lloyd Ramsay.

Frank Johnson bought the school and demolished it in 1960.

LEONARD BYSTROM

I was born in the Diamond Valley District on December 5, 1906. In 1913 Dad moved to the Centerville District where I had my schooling.

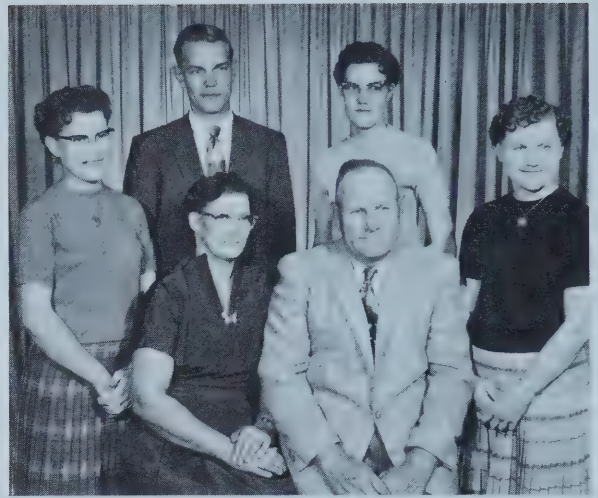
As I grew up, there was a lot of chores to do. Every year on the new breaking there was brush to pile and burn, roots to pick and haul into piles with one horse and a stone boat.

The first breaking was done with a wooden beam walking plow pulled by 3 horses. Later on Dad bought a Van Slyke plow which was pulled by 6 horses.

The first threshing machine I forked bundles on, was a Case outfit owned by Harry Nelson. I also worked on Amos Smith's steam outfit. Later on, in the fall some stack threshing was done. I enjoyed warming up by the old steam engine on cold mornings.

In 1928 I bought the S.E. ¼ 29-37-1-W.5 which was heavy brush. Timber was taken out and sawed into lumber with a saw mill owned by Fred Grimson. It was very hard work to clear this land as we used only a grub hoe and axe and it didn't make much showing in a day.

I married Ida Smith, the only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Sandy Smith of the Burnt Lake District. We made our home on the above farm where we still live. We have four children; Lloyd married Kay Baldwin of Red Deer. They have four children; Leonard, Calvin, Doris and Donald. Marjorie married Lee Patjas of the Hespero



Family of Leonard and Ida Bystrom: L. to R. standing — Gladys, Lloyd, Marjorie, and Gloria, seated: Ida and Leonard, 1959.



*Lloyd Bystrom family 1975.
Lloyd and Kay, Calvin and Leonard, Donald and Doris.*

District and they have two boys; Brian and Bradley. They have been living in Grande Prairie, Alberta for the past 3 years where Lee worked as a welder and they are moving back to live in Penhold. We have twin girls, Gloria and Gladys. Gloria married Casey VanderLeek from Andyk, Holland. They have three children; Donna, Shirley and Richard. They were living in the Sunnybrook area in Red Deer but have moved to make their home in Parkside Mobile Estates, Red Deer where Casey is the manager. Gladys married Edward Bolton of Red Deer. They have four children; Sidney, Wesley, Karen and Wade. They live in Rocky Mountain House where Ed is a welder.

I was on the Pine Hill Divisional School Board for 13 years. Ida and I helped out and taught Sunday School at Pine Hill the last 4 years of its existence when the schools were taken over by bus. The Pine Hill District was actually no more.



Marjorie and Lloyd Bystrom sitting on wood pile.

Lloyd has taken over the farm and has also bought his Uncle Albert's quarter being the N.W. ¼ 29-37-1-W.5. He also drives the school bus.

We still live in our house in the same yard as Lloyd, enjoying semi-retirement and also enjoying visits with our family, neighbours and friends.

NICK ELIUK FAMILY

Nick Eliuk was born at Szypenitz, Alberta on January 20, 1908. He married Lena Homeniuk on October 24, 1926.

In January, 1946, Nick, his wife Lena and their five children moved to the Pine Hill district onto N.W. 8-37-1-W.5.

Nick, along with his partner Nick Ruptash, purchased ten quarters of land from Eric Charlson. Eric Charlson and his wife moved into the Town of Sylvan Lake.

In the spring of 1946, Nick Ruptash, his wife Vera and their five children moved onto the Eric Charlson home quarter. They farmed in this district for three years and then moved to the City of Edmonton. Eliuk and Ruptash dissolved their partnership at this time.

Nick Eliuk purchased the N. ½ of 8-37-1-W.5, S.W. 8-37-1-W.5, and S.W. 16-37-1-W.5 (which Joshua Bond homesteaded before the turn of the century) from the partnership and continued farming.

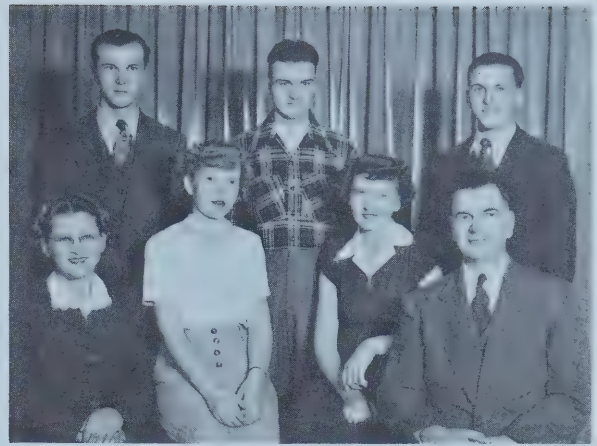
Mary Eliuk, the eldest child, married Anton Chilibeck on November 7, 1947 and lived in the Spring Creek district.

In 1957, they took over the family farm until October of 1963, when they purchased a farm in the Evarts district where they still reside. They have three sons; Ronald, Gerald and Daniel and a daughter, Patricia.

Bill married Iris Thorlakson on July 18, 1951 and farmed in the Markerville area for a few years. In 1957, he purchased a business and moved to Eckville. They still reside in the Eckville area. They have four sons; Richard, Randy, Marvin and Kevin and one daughter, Marcia.

George married Doris Sigurdson on July 6, 1953. They lived in Red Deer for awhile then moved to Innisfail where he purchased a business. They still reside at Innisfail. They have a daughter, Susan and a son, Sheldon.

Walter married Audrey Roen at Piapot, Sask., on July 6, 1956. They lived on the 76 Ranch at Piapot for a few years and in October, 1963, moved to the family



Nick and Lena Eliuk family: standing, L. to R. — William, George, and Walter. Seated: L. to R. — Mrs. Lena Eliuk, Victoria, Mary, and Mr. Nick Eliuk, 1950.

farm where they still reside. They have two sons, Lance and Grant.

Victoria married Don Anderson on May 18, 1957 at Breton, Alberta. They later moved to Tete Jaune Cache, B.C. They have three sons; Bradley, Barry and Brian and a daughter, Beverly.

Nick and Lena retired to the Town of Sylvan Lake in 1958, where Lena still resides.

Nick passed away after a lengthy illness on June 2, 1967.

GATES STORY — by Howard Gates

In the year 1898 my grandfather, Herman Gates with his two brothers left Missouri to come to Canada in search of land. They came as far as Medicine Hat, Alberta. The two brothers decided not to come any further. Grandfather came to Innisfail and he liked the looks of this country so travelled northwest of Innisfail and filed on the N.E. ¼ S.18-T.37-R.1-W.5.

He then went to work and built a log house and two log barns. Being an expert with a broad axe and log building, he helped build the first Pine Hill School in 1900. He helped build the Solheima Post Office, as well as many other log buildings in this area.

After he proved up on his homestead, he bought the S.W. ¼ S.17-T.37-R.1-W.5. This quarter had a spring with water the year round so he built a house and barn and made his home. The homestead house was never left empty as different families came to stay for a short time and would help him with the farming.

He farmed until he passed away in 1928 at 76 years of age. My father and mother, Raymond and Alice Gates, with their two children; Max and Elaine, came from the U.S.A., to take over the farm. Dad broke up more land and raised Tamworth pigs and Shorthorn cattle.

In 1930, I, Howard was born and in 1931, brother James was born. He passed away at the age of 3 months. Max volunteered in the Air Force in 1942 as a Pilot Officer. He was killed in action June 13, 1944. In 1951 mother took sick and was in the hospital at the time the house burned down. A new house was built the same year. Mother passed away in the Red Deer General Hospital on March 6, 1952.



Bystrom outfit, December, 1932, threshing in the snow.

I went out to work in various places and came home to help put in the crop in the spring and harvesting in the fall.

In 1955, Dad married Sandra Johnson and continued to farm.

In 1956, Elaine married Jim Morris from Brandon, Manitoba. They have 3 children. In 1959 I married Edith Elbrey of Spruce Grove, Alberta. We lived at Sylvan Lake. Dad passed away on June 6, 1960 at the age of 65 years. Sandra then moved to Sylvan Lake. She passed away in January, 1975. Edith and I took over the farm where we are still living.

KRIS K. JOHNSON

My father, Frederick Kjartan Johnson, was born in Gaida, North Dakota, in 1885. He came with his Mother, his sisters, Grace and Emma and brothers; Sydney, Clarence and William to a homestead that his Father, Kris Johnson, had filed on in 1899, at the south end of Gull Lake, Alberta.

This homestead proved to be under water, so the family moved to a homestead in the Pine Hill District.

My father married Lena Illugason on May 18, 1909. She had come with her parents from Iceland at the age of five.

Dad had taken a homestead adjoining his father's, which he later traded to his father for the quarter we lived on. This is now the home quarter of Jack Ziola.

Our family consisted of my sister, Lilyan, later Mrs. Joe Johansson of Markerville, who passed away on August 18, 1973; myself, Kjartan Kristjan, my brothers, Gudmundur Gordon and Frederick Franklin, and my sister, Lyla, Mrs. Henry Pickering of R.R.1, Blackfalds.

We travelled by means of team, wagon, democrat and by car. Our house was lumber. Our closest neighbors



Mr. and Mrs. Kris Johnson's children, Betty and Rodney, 1950.

were the Johnsons, Sam and his wife and their two sons, Johnny and Lolly. They were no relation to us.

We attended Pine Hill School, walking at first, then using a team and democrat. Many a race took place at home time, hitching up, loading and trying to get through the school yard gate first. My cousins, the Ramsays often



Seeding bee on Bain farm in the Pine Hill district in the 1930's.

arrived at the gate as we did, and we had to take out a gatepost to accommodate two outfits at the same time.

Some of the pupils who attended Pine Hill School during my school years were my cousins; Leonard, Johnny and Ellis Johannson; Marjorie, Vic, Wink, Leola, Blanch and Irma Ramsay; the Morrisroes; Joe, Katherine, Margaret, Jim and Lawrence and Ray Bunch.

Around 1936, Gordon and I bought the S.E. quarter of 18-T.37-R.1-W.5 from Frank Thompson of Red Deer. Mr. Clare Leppard of Edmonton was the owner prior to Frank Thompson. Later, we bought the east half of Section 7, and farmed the three quarters together until 1940. Gordon took over the half on Section 7, and I took the S.E. quarter of 18. In the spring of 1940 we built our present house. John Johannson, Dad and I worked on it.

On July 10, 1940, Kathleen Orr and I were married in the United Church in Wetaskiwin. My wife, whose parents were Lucy Welles Orr and James Stacey Orr, was born in Daysland, moving to Wetaskiwin at the age of nine. She attended Public and High School there and Edmonton Normal School. She had five brothers and one sister. Three brothers are now deceased.

Kay taught at Pine Hill School for three years, 1937 to 1940. We moved into our new house in August, 1940. We had cows, pigs, chickens, turkeys and grew barley.

On April 29, 1942, our daughter, Elizabeth Kathleen, (Bettie) was born. That same year, 1942, I became a member of Co-operative Implements at a meeting in New Hola School organized by Paul A. Chatenay. In 1970 I became the delegate for the Innisfail Depot.

In the forties, I acquired the south half of the S.W. quarter of 18 and the N.E. quarter of 19.

On February 23, 1947, our son, Rodney Blair, was born.

Bettie first attended New Hola School, which was on the Mait White place now Gunnar Neilsen's home quarter. This was the old Melita School, and had been moved down here from Highway 11 to serve the growing population. Some of the teachers were Mrs. Mait White, Mrs. Bob (Frances) White, and Mrs. Gordon (Mary) Moore. This old school was moved to Markerville for grades 4, 5, and 6 and is now one of Mac Hansen's farm buildings. Bettie then went to school at Markerville, the Composite High School in Red Deer and graduated from



Plowing bee on Bain farm in 1930's.

the University of Alberta with a B.Sc. in Household Economics. She was married to James C. Spalding of Edmonton, and is Department Head of Commercial Foods at Victoria Composite and Vocational School in Edmonton.

Rodney went to school in Markerville, Junior High in Sylvan Lake, High School at the Composite in Red Deer and graduated from the University of Alberta with a B.Sc. in Agriculture, majoring in Economics and Statistics. He worked in Ottawa in Canada Statistics for three years and then joined the Trade Commissioner Service of the Federal Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce. In 1970, Miss Deanna Schultz of Lethbridge and Rod were married, and lived in Ottawa until 1973. They were then posted to Wellington, New Zealand, where Rod served at the Canadian High Commission until May, 1976. They have one daughter, Lisa Danae, born in Lower Hutt, N.Z. on February 27, 1976.

From 1955 until 1959, Kay taught at Markerville, and from 1959 until 1969 she taught at Sylvan Lake.

In 1960, George Braithwaite, a delegate for the Alberta Wheat Pool became a Director and in a by-election I became delegate for Sub-District 408, a position I still hold.

Through the Pine Hill F.U.A., we organized a buying Co-op, of which the late Mr. Nick Eliuk was secretary-treasurer and I was chairman. Also, through our local of the F.U.A., we were successful in establishing a U.F.A. Co-op fuel station in Sylvan Lake. Much credit must go to the late Mr. Nick Eliuk for his work on this project.

I have always been a member of the farm organization, Pine Hill Local, and attended the founding meeting of Unifarm in Edmonton in 1970. We got the power in 1951 and I served on the Markerville R.E.A. Board from 1969 to 1975. I also served on the Board of Directors of the Innisfail Co-op Store from 1969 to 1976.

In 1974, we joined the Stephan G. Stephansson Icelandic Society in Markerville, which Joe H. Johannson had organized at his home on February 6, 1974. The 100th anniversary of the arrival of the Icelanders in Canada was celebrated in the summer of 1975, and I had the honor to be general chairman of the program in Markerville. It was a wonderful celebration when about 500 visitors from Iceland witnessed the dedication of the Stephansson Homestead House as an Historical Site.

We have been very happy in this lovely part of Alberta, with our very good neighbors and friends, and we plan to stay here as long as we can.

GORDON JOHNSON FAMILY

My parents, Fred and Lena Johnson, came to the Pine Hill district before 1900 and on May 18th, 1909, they were married at Markerville. They had a family of 3 boys and 2 girls; Lily, Kris, Gordon, Frank and Lyla. They lived on the farm in the Pine Hill district until 1947, when they sold the farm to Jack Ziola and retired to Sylvan Lake. My father passed away on January 16, 1956, and my mother passed away August 21st, 1962.

In 1945, I bought the S.W.¼ 22-T.37-R.1-W.5, the Samuel Johnson homestead. It was the Solheima Post Office from 1901 to June 30, 1911.

On March 16, 1947, I married Dorothy Dickau of Bentley. We have five children; Jim, Robert, Patsy, Wesley and Gary. They were all very active in 4-H and won many trophies and silver trays. Jim served 3 years in the Navy and when he returned home, he married Moira Blair of Calgary in 1966. They have two daughters, Marion and Jeanelle, and reside in Calgary. Robert married Judy Bott of Condor in 1970 and have two children, Mark and Nicole. They reside in Sylvan Lake. Patsy married Ted Moore of the Ridgewood district in 1969. They have a son, Allen and a daughter, Sherry. They are living on the farm in the Ridgewood district. Wesley was killed in a car accident at the age of 18 years on September 7, 1972, on a country road near home. Gary graduated this spring from Sylvan Lake High School where he took all of his schooling. We were both very active in the community — in 4-H, F.U.A., and F.W.U.A. We also helped to get the Calgary power in the district and are presently serving on the Board of Directors. We are active members of Memorial Presbyterian Church, Sylvan Lake. I have served on the Board of Managers for a number of years and Dorothy has worked with the women's organizations for a good many years. The children have attended Church School and taken part in the youth programs.

I took over the management of the pound in 1947 when my father retired; and we had the pound until we retired in 1973. We also helped with the Bangs Program in the district, and did the canvassing of all the farmers in the Pine Hill and surrounding area farms in Township



Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Johnson and families, 1976.



Wood splitting at F. K. Johnson's.



Starting the tractor the easy way in the 1930's.

37, until it was accredited with a bangs free area. It was also my privilege to serve for a good many years as a director on the Penhold Mutual Telephone which served Penhold west.

Over the years we built up a large, modern farm and cattle feed lot. Due to poor health and having open-heart surgery in March, 1971, I had to retire from the farm. We sold the farmstead to John Bugbee in 1973 and moved to Sylvan Lake. I kept a section of my land and rent it to my son-in-law. We are still interested in the farming community.

F. F. JOHNSON FAMILY

Frederick Franklin Johnson (Frank), son of Mr. and Mrs. Frederick K. Johnson, was born and raised in Pine Hill School District with two sisters, Lilyan and Lyla; and two brothers, Kris and Gordon. At an early age he mastered the art of taxidermy and displayed a large number of specimens for many years. He was active in sports, especially softball and curling. Frank farmed with his father during the war and held a keen interest in raising and improving purebred Shorthorn cattle. He imported purebred Shorthorns from Scotland and was the first Pine Hill farmer to import Polled Shorthorns, bringing them in from Ohio, U.S.A. in 1953. Many prize winning cattle and hogs were raised by Frank. He also won prizes in the National Barley Contest.

Frank graduated from a Dale Carnegie leadership course in 1954. He was a director on the Red Deer Fair Board for some years. He gave his time freely to the Farmers Union of Alberta and was a director in District No. 10 for a number of years. Following this he became



Frank and Eva Johnson family: L. to R. — Valerie, David, Eva, Frank, Beverly, and Clifford.



"Oakwood Majesty" purchased by Frank Johnson in 1953 from Oakwood farms. This is the first Polled Shorthorn bull brought to this area.

interested in Alberta's Oil Industry and worked for several years as a broker.

In 1943 Frank and Eva Braithwaite of the Shady Nook District were married, and in 1944, they moved to their own home on T.37-R.1-W.5,-E.½-21, which was purchased from Johnnie Johnson. There they built up an attractive farmstead. Later they purchased the E½-16 directly south of them from N. Eliuk and N. Ruptash.

Eva was co-operative in community activities and held executive positions in the Farm Women's Union of Alberta. Sewing remained her favorite hobby throughout the years, along with home and landscape planning and gardening.

Four children were born to them: David Franklin, Beverly Jeanne, Clifford Douglas and Valerie Anne. The two older children attended Pine Hill School until centralization closed it. David was a 4-H member in the Dairy Club. David married Rose Pelky and is a government employee in Red Deer. Their son, Brian, is two years old. Beverly received her Bachelor of Science Degree and is a guidance officer with Unemployment Insurance Commission in Calgary. Clifford received his Bachelor of Business Commerce Degree and is with Gulf

Oil Canada Ltd. He married Gale Smith. Valerie is a secretary with Alberta Agriculture in Calgary. She is married to Rick Smart.

In 1961, Frank and Eva sold the farm and left Pine Hill.

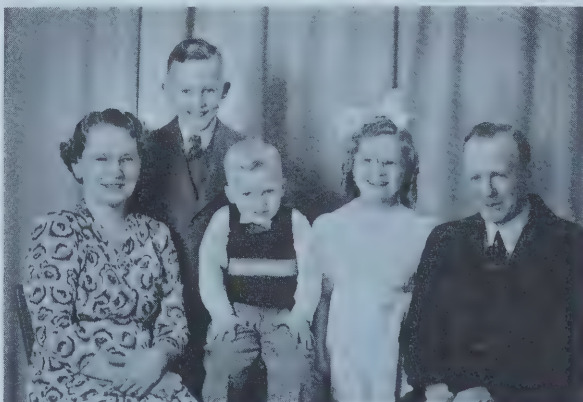
WM. (BILL) JOHNSON

Christian Johnson and Gudfinna Sveinsdotter were among a group of immigrants from Iceland coming to North Dakota to look for a better land. Chris, a boy of 14, on his own, Gudfinna with her parents, a girl of 13. Some years later they were married at Gaida, an Icelandic settlement. In 1899, Chris was one of a group appointed to come north to Alberta to look for homestead land. They came to the Lacombe-Gull Lake area. Chris filed papers on a quarter section on the south end of Gull Lake. He returned to Dakota for Mrs. Johnson and the family. Along with some settlers' effects they came by a mixed freight and passenger train to Lacombe. On the way from Calgary they met a section foreman's wife, a Mrs. Nina Goodman from Ponoka who so very kindly asked Mrs. Johnson and the children to come and stay with them until some kind of shelter could be built for them, they graciously accepted the invitation.

Due to some error the quarter Chris had filed a claim on was completely under water, so he decided to go back to Red Deer to see what was available in that area. They found a land guide, who took him out some 18 miles west of Red Deer to a quarter section that someone had filed a claim on but abandoned, this was the S.W.¼ 28-T.37-R.1-W.5. This is where they decided to settle, they built a small log house, kept adding to it and fixing it up, which was the family home since that time.

This district was known as "Solheima" an Icelandic name, the Post Office being at the home of Sam Johnson (no relation). Later the Post Office was at Burnt Lake. Chris was one of the founders of the Lutheran Church at Markerville and helped to get a school into the district which was named Pine Hill, he also served on the board for a number of years.

Fred, the oldest of the family was born in 1885, went on his own in 1907, married Lena Illugeson in 1909 and moved on to a homestead in the district in 1911. He passed away at Sylvan Lake in 1956. Grace was born in 1890, when she grew up she worked in Red Deer where she met and married Wm. Ramsay in 1909. Grace passed



Mr. and Mrs. Bill Johnson family: Howard standing. Sitting: L. to R. — Selma, Kenneth, Marion, and Bill.



Bill Johnson, June, 1928, plowing on Eric Charlson's homestead.

away in 1939 in the Red Deer Hospital. Sidney was born in 1892, also worked in Red Deer for a time, then on a ranch near Stavely till he became ill in 1918 with influenza, came home and passed away in the Red Deer Hospital. One year later in 1919, Christian became ill and passed away leaving Mrs. Johnson to carry on with the three youngest children; Clarence, 17; Bill, 15 and Emma, 12. The boys grew up and worked very hard to make ends meet. They worked out with horses whenever they had the time, breaking land, working on road construction, etc., to bring in a few extra dollars. Emma lived at home assisting her mother till her marriage in 1929 to Wm. Silverberg, living in Red Deer, where Bill was rural mail carrier. They have a family of three, a daughter and two sons. Emma and Bill now retired are living in Sidney, B.C. Mrs. Johnson lived on the old homestead until she passed away August 28, 1944 in her 82nd year. Clarence remained a bachelor and farmed at home until his death in 1950.

Bill purchased the N.E. ¼ 17-37-1-W.5 in 1927 from the estate of James Garfield Gillespie. There was only 20 acres broke at that time. He cleared this the hard way, axe, grub hoe and horses, the large trees piled up for fire wood. Bill farmed both his own quarter and at home with his mother and Clarence until his marriage to Selma Johnson of the Sylvan Lake district, January 30, 1935.



L. to R. back row: William Silverberg, Emma Silverberg, and Grandma Johnson. Children: Wilhemina, Douglas, and Richard.

They have a family of three; Howard, Marion and Ken. Bill has been active in many community services and improvements.

Howard and his wife, Phyllis and two children are living in Red Deer. Marion and her husband, Ken McLeod and three children are living on their farm in the Pine Hill district. Ken and his wife Jeanette and two children are living on the home place having purchased it in 1976. Bill and Selma have retired and are presently in Red Deer.

KEN AND JEANETTE JOHNSON AND FAMILY

I was born and raised in the Pine Hill district and received my first six years of education at the Pine Hill School, the remainder at Sylvan Lake and Red Deer; after which time I took up farming full-time with my father, Bill Johnson.

In February, 1968, I married Jeanette Tucker of Red Deer. In April, the same year, we moved onto the former Olav Seland farm N.W. ¼ 27-37-R.1-W.5. Later the same year we bought it from Mrs. A. Husty.

Soon after that we began raising Arabian horses as part of our business and our farm became known as Sunset Arabians.

We lived there and continued farming with dad until the spring of 1976 at which time we bought my parents' farm N.E. ¼ 17-37-R.1-W.5 and moved there in March. At the same time we sold our home quarter to my sister and brother-in-law, Ken and Marion McLeod.

We have two children, Keith Spencer born February 18, 1971 and Stacey Patricia born March 20, 1975.



Ken and Jeanette Johnson with children, Stacey and Keith, 1975.



Sid Johnson on left with a friend in Calgary in 1916.

KEN AND MARION McLEOD AND FAMILY

Early this spring we bought the N.W. ¼ 37-1-W.5 from Ken and Jeanette Johnson. Prior to this we lived in Red Deer. We have owned and shown Arabian horses for the past five years and wanted to spend more time with them.

Teresa our oldest daughter has graduated from the Lindsay Thurber Comprehensive High School, Ricky is in High School at Sylvan Lake and Sharon is in Junior High.

JAMES VICTOR RAMSAY — by Wayne Ramsay

Dad was born in Lethbridge in the year, 1912. He moved with his family to the Pine Hill district in 1920. He farmed with his father until June, 1941, when he volunteered for service in World War II. During his four and one half years in the army, Dad trained in Red Deer as military mechanic until he was sent overseas in 1943. He was discharged in January, 1946 after serving mostly in Holland and Belgium.

After returning home, Dad married Frances Marie Young, of Beaverlodge, Alberta. They bought the N.E. 29-37-R.1-W.5. This was all raw land, with heavy brush, which they cleared and broke up.

They had three children; Lloyd, Wayne and Lynda. The family bought S.W. 20-37-R.1-W.5, which was originally homesteaded by William Logan before the turn of the century. Other owners on this place were; Joe Smith, Harry Ramsay and Joe Wynia.



Ken and Marion McLeod, L. to R. back row — Ricky, Marion, and Ken. L. to R. front row — Teresa and Sharon, 1975.

Dad died suddenly of a heart attack on May 22, 1966.

Lloyd, now a welder in Calgary, married Agnes Desjarlais from Lac La Biche. They have two sons, John and Michael and they make their home in High River.

I, Wayne, married Carol Staniforth from Evarts and we live on the family farm.

Lynda married Les Tisdale from Red Deer and they live near there with their son Kelly.

Mother married Albert Schappert in 1970 and they live in Beaverlodge, Alberta.



Sawing wood, L. to R. Vic Ramsay, Leonard and Ed Bystrom, Clarence and Bill Johnson, and Alf Smith.

ROY RAMSAY

Roy has lived all his life in the Pine Hill District. He married Lila Sage of Joffre, Alberta. They lived in an old log house which was Roy's grandfather Johnson's homestead.

Later on when Roy's father retired and moved to Red Deer, Roy took over his dad's farm the S.W. ¼ 21-37-1-W.5.

Roy and Lila have six children, one daughter and five sons. Dianne is married to John Costa and lives in Calgary. They have 2 children, John Paul and Michelle Grace. Richard married Wendy Boon and farm near Drumheller. They have 2 sons, Ryan and Chad. Bruce married Karen Wilhelm and have 2 daughters, Tara and Rochelle. They live on the Freeman Einerson place, N.E. ¼ 29-36-1-W.5. Bruce farms with his dad. Bradley, Douglas and Keith are at home.



The Kris Johnson homestead built in 1900.



Clarence Johnson, 1929.

RUSSELL SMITH

Russell and his brother, Alfred bought the east half of Section 20-37-1-W.5, from G. W. Smith of Red Deer in 1917. Russell took the N.E. quarter. This half section of land was homesteaded before the turn of the century by Washington and Horace Petro. It was known as the Petro Hill by all the old-timers.

Russell and Alfred worked together clearing and breaking the land with a grub hoe and axe and broke it with horses.

In 1920 their father, Amos Smith, purchased an American Abel steam engine and an Avery Yellow Fellow threshing machine. Russell was the engineer and Alfred the separator man. They always had a long run of threshing for farmers until the gas tractors came in and took over.

In 1924 Russell married Myrtle Innes and they moved into their new house in 1925. During their time in the Pine Hill district, Russell served on the school board and was also road boss for 4 years, building and patching roads with Fresno, slip scrapers and Wheelers.

Russell and Myrtle had 3 children; Eva, Stanley and Harold. They attended school at Pine Hill.

In 1939, Russell sold his quarter of land to his brother, Alfred and moved to the Caroline district where he farmed until 1950 when he sold out and moved to Red Deer. They bought a house about a block south of the General Hospital. Russell worked for 7 months at Alberta School Hospital, then went to work at the Red Deer General Hospital steady for 12 years and for 5 years part-time.

Myrtle passed away August 4, 1968 and is buried in the Innisfail Cemetery.

Russell spent the next 7 years alone in his house and travelling around visiting old friends throughout this area. He, as a young lad, together with 2 sisters, Martha and Rachel attended school at Burnt Lake.

About 1910 and 1911 the Amos Smith family lived in the Linus Lindholm house.

On July 25, 1975 Russell married Alice McWade. They are living on 44th Street in Red Deer, retired and happy.



Bernard and Albert Bystrom putting up hay with bucking pole.

LYMAN WALKER

Living on E. ½ 7-37-1-W.5, which was bought from Leroy Woody in 1955. Alfred Smith's farm E. ½ 20-37-1-W.5 was added in 1964.

ZIOLA (JACK)

Jack came from Europe with his parents, a ten year old sister, and a baby brother on July 28th, 1914 at the age of five years. They sailed on a ship called 'S.S. Willowhead'. World War I had just recently broken out, and apparently if the ship had not been over half way across the ocean it would have been turned back.

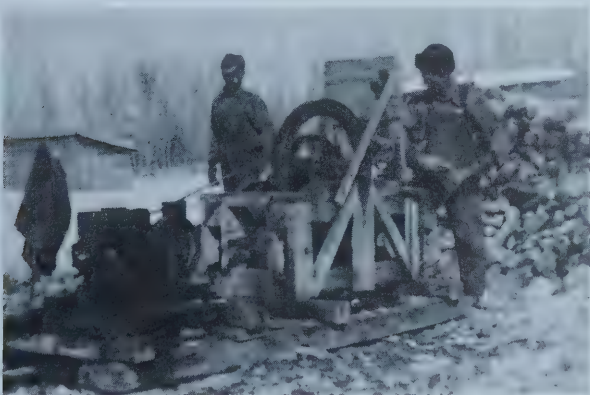
After landing at a port in Quebec the family made their way to Margo, Saskatchewan where they took a homestead. Jack worked on the farm in his younger years, later in a number of lumber camps, some as far away at Fort Frances and Port Arthur, Ontario.

Going back home, Jack bought a quarter section of land from the Soldier Settlement Board, and later another half section from an American.

On July 11th, 1937, Jack married Pauline Fidelack in a little country church near Margo, just a few miles from where they farmed for the next ten years. It was during this period that Jack served six years as Sec.-Treas. on



Mr. and Mrs. Jack Ziola family. Back row: L. to R. — Carol Bank, Al and Ethel Bank, Dale Ziola, and Judy and John Edmund. Seated: Pauline and Jack holding Jo Anne Edmund. Kneeling: Jeffrey Bank and Jackie Edmund.



Wood splitting outfit: Jack Ziola on the right with a neighbor.

the Robertson School Board; a country school district where their daughter, Ethel attended her first school.

Jack and Pauline had a family of three; Ethel, Tom and Judy, when they decided to sell out and move to Alberta, to a three quarter section farm southwest of Red Deer in the fall of 1947. Dale was born in Alberta the winter of 1948.

This farm had previously been homesteaded by the Fred Johnson family in the Pine Hill district. Home quarter N.W. 22, Twnshp. 37, Rge 1, West of the 5th meridian.

Son, Tom and his wife Ann have land adjoining his father's, where he farms with his father and brother, Dale.

Ethel worked as a secretary for Precision Drilling in Calgary for a few years, marrying Al Bank in 1959. They have two children; Carol and Jeffrey, and live in Calgary.

Judy worked in Calgary as an I.B.M. operator, marrying John Edmunds in 1967. They have two daughters, Jacquelyn and Jo-Anne, and also live in Calgary.

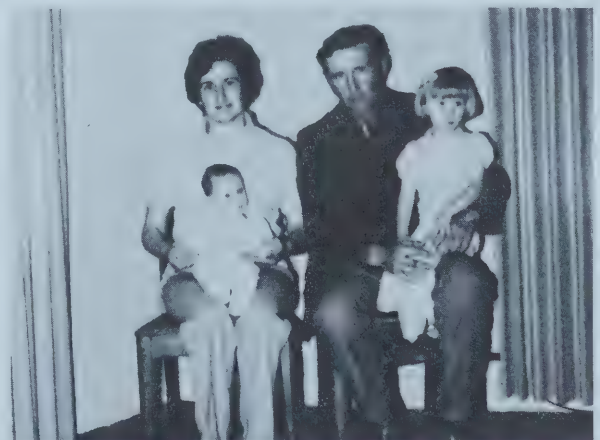
ZIOLA (TOM)

Tom was born in Wadena, Saskatchewan on October 13th, 1944. He came to Alberta with his parents, and two sisters on November 8th, 1947.

Tom started his schooling at a small country school in the Pine Hill district, went to Sylvan Lake for junior high grades, then finished his high school at Lindsay Thurber Composite High School in Red Deer. Following Grade 12, Tom attended 'Olds Agricultural and Vocational College' in Olds, Alberta and graduated from there in the spring of 1968.

In May, 1971 Tom bought Murray and Alice Martin's home quarter — N.W. 23, Twnshp. 37, Rge. 1, W. of 5th meridian. On August 14, 1971 Tom married Ann Bezjack in Crossfield, Alberta. Ann's father and brother farm ten miles west of Crossfield in the district of Madden. Besides the Martin quarter Tom and Ann own another half section immediately west (east ½ of 22), which they farm in conjunction with Tom's father and brother, Dale.

Tom and Ann have two children; a daughter, Kimberly born May 22nd, 1973 and a son, Kevin, born March 28th, 1976.



Mr. and Mrs. Tom Ziola with children, Kevin and Kimberly.

PINE HILL BRANDS

LR



H. Gates

RR



F. K. Johnson

RR



F. F. Johnson

LR



G. Johnson

LH



K. Johnson

RR



R. Ramsay

LH



W. V. Johnson

LR



L. Walker

LH



J. Ziola

RR



T. Ziola

1

Dear Reader:

The Marianne Book Committee are very happy to present our portion of the Burnt Lake Trail. We feel we are lucky to some extent in the fact we have a wealth of pictures and facts at our disposal. The ruts of the trail as well as the memories have grown very dim in some places but with persistence we have tried to recapture at least a portion of it. We are lucky also in our research, as a lot of the families who first homesteaded the district have some other generation of the family still on the land.

We are proud of our district. It has been one of co-existence. It is one of mixed nationalities, codes, and religions. This fact has helped the people learn a great deal, and be more tolerant of each other. The majority are long-time residents, well known to us all.

We, the book committee, cannot help but pay tribute to our forefathers. They were a class all of their own: hard workers, good farmers, thrifty, and kind. We have not, in our working with these histories, found one who ever gave up. They toiled, not so much to reap riches for themselves, but their reward was satisfaction in jobs well-done. We, the younger generation, have riches untold in our heritage.

We have enjoyed collecting and writing the following stories. We were all amateurs in this field. We know we have made mistakes. We only hope our mistakes are small and insignificant. If they should prove otherwise, please accept our apologies. We want to thank you also for being so patient in waiting for our book to be published.

We hope you experience just a little of the thrill we did in seeing it finished.

Many, many thanks to the writers, proof readers, editors, researchers. You all did your job admirably.

Sincerely yours,
The Marianne Book Committee
Dorothy Periche
Edna Mannerfeldt
Marjorie Staudinger

MARIANNE

MARIANNE MY MARIANNE

This little land of verdant earth
To which our pioneers gave birth
to homes and firesides, joy and mirth —
Marianne my Marianne

Those stalwart citizens of old
had none of silver, jewels nor gold
but they had vision, we are told —
Marianne my Marianne

Into these homes their children came.
They grew in wisdom, strength and frame.
This energy they soon must tame —
Marianne my Marianne

A school was built in nineteen-ten.
A name it must be given then.
A finer name no man could pen —
Than Marianne my Marianne

T'was for a brave, young frontier bride,
the first white woman to abide,
in this idyllic country-side —
Marianne my Marianne

For four-score years, strong men have trod,
where first their fathers broke the sod,
with toil and tears — and faith in God —
Marianne my Marianne

And mother's prayers have winged their way
where'er their off-spring chanced to stray.
How ever near — or far away —
From Marianne my Marianne

To those who built this heritage
we dedicate this printed page
and leave it to each future age —
Marianne my Marianne

Marjorie V. Staudinger



Marianne's name-sake — Mrs. Marianne Bertheuson.

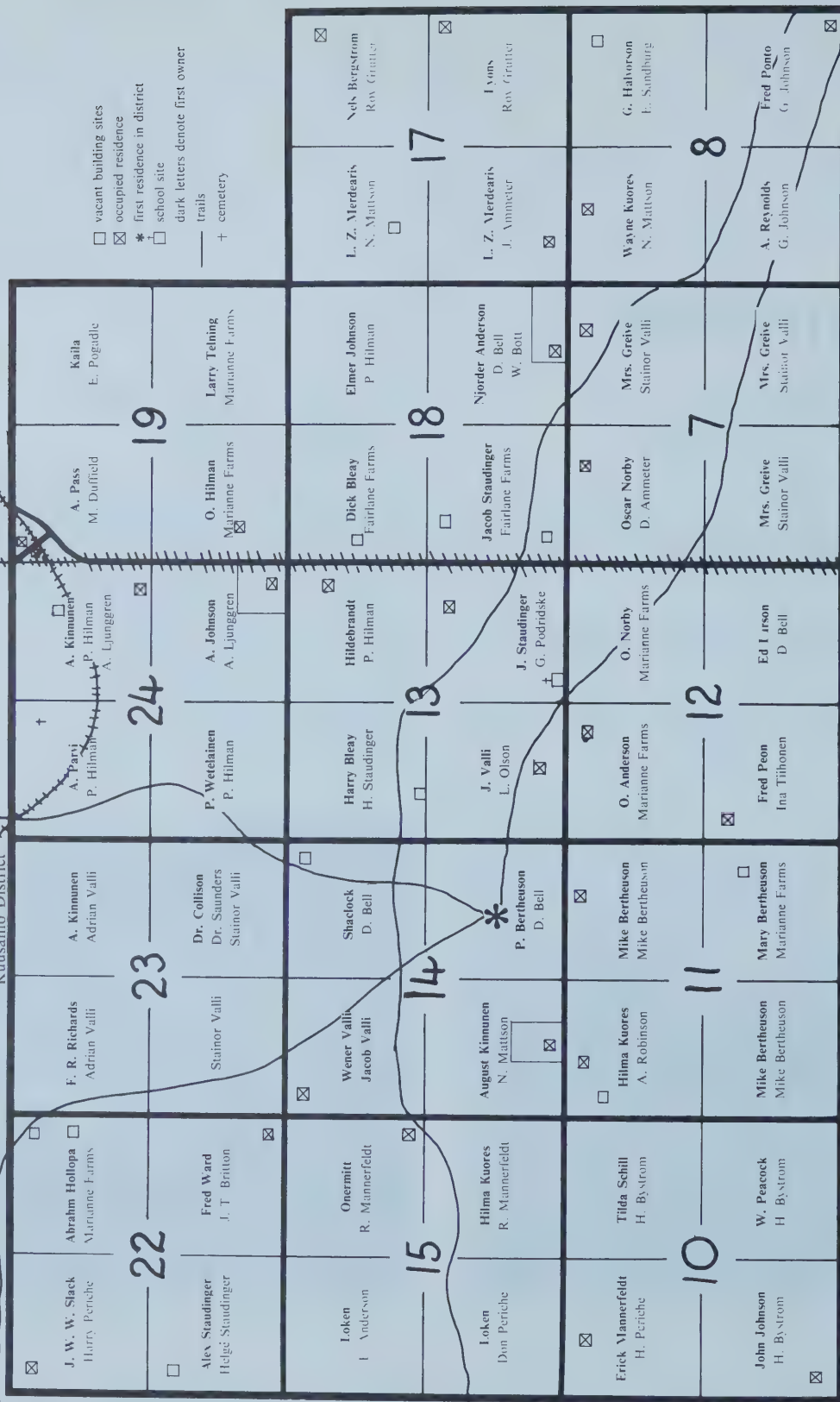


First cabin west of Red Deer — Mike and Johanna.

Map of Marianne District

Canadian Pacific Railway

Kuusamo District



Evarts District

Centerville District

Burnt Lake District

Complete list of residents for Marianne district.

Section 22-38-2-5	S.E. — N.W. — no residents	S.E. — Njorder Anderson, Madden, Eckley, Parks, Rowan, Rogers, Jack Thompson, Wes Bott	S.W. — no residents N.W. — Walter Kuores, Slim (Alvin) Robinson
	Section 15-38-2-5		Section 12-38-2-5
	N.E. — Helga Mannerfeldt, Ragnar Mannerfeldt	S.W. — Jack Staudinger, Richard York, Elmer Johnson	N.E. — O. Norby, Latam
	S.E. — no residents	N.W. — D. Bleay, Victor Staudinger, Harrison, Sandisbury, Buckley, Lettch	S.E. — Ed Larsen, Baker, Hanson, Magnusson, Dingman, Shepherd
	S.W. — no residents		S.W. — Fred Peon, Tom Meyers, Walter Tiihonen, Ed Tiihonen, Ina Tiihonen
	N.W. — Hallick		N.W. — O. Anderson, M. Mattson, A. Staudinger, H. Staudinger, Marianner Farms
	Section 14-38-2-5	Section 17-38-1-5	Section 7-38-1-5
	N.E. — T. Shaclock, C. Dingman, L. Tweed, M. Bertheuson	N.E. — Nels Bergstrom, Ed Grutter, Roy Grutter	N.E. — Roger, Sandy Smith, Walker, S. Valli
	S.E. — Peter and Marianne Bertheuson, A. Doran	S.E. — Lyons, Halgren, Hawkinson, Horlacher, Edmunds	S.E. — no residents
	S.W. — August Kinnunen, Mike Kuores, Walter Kuores, Bruno Nawrot	S.W. — L. Z. Merdearis, J. Ammeter	S.W. — no residents
	N.W. — Jack Valli, Valli Brothers, G. Olson, Werner Valli	N.W. — Tidyback	N.W. — Oscar Norby, Sandy York, Dave Bunce, W. Kenzle, D. Ammeter
	Section 13-38-2-5	Section 10-38-2-5	Section 8-38-1-5
	N.E. — L. Johnson, P. Hilman	N.E. — no residents	N.E. — Gordon Halverson
	S.E. — Jack Staudinger, D. Bleay, G. Hanson, Dingman, Ray Hilman, A. Kinnunen, Norman Sigurdson, Hillier	S.E. — W. Peacock, Wilcox	S.E. — Fred Grimson
	S.W. — G. Olson	S.W. — John Johnson, Walter Valli, O. Bystrom	S.W. — A. Reynolds
	N.W. — Harry Bleay, C. Ohland, Carol, Jamoye, Bates, George	N.W. — Erick Mannerfeldt, Gus and Folke Mannerfeldt, Carl Kropf, Harry Periche, Graham Cameron, Paul Stone, Al Crawford, Ken Mennard, Ray April, Bob Brattburg	N.W. — W. Kuores
	See		Section 6-38-1-5
	Section 18-38-1-5	Section 11-38-2-5	N.W. — Wesslin, F. M. Hodges, D. Bell
	N.E. — no residents	N.E. — Mike Bertheuson	
		S.E. — Andy Doran	
Section 23-38-2-5			
N.E. — no residents			
S.E. — no residents			
S.W. — no residents			
N.W. — Richards			
Section 24-38-2-5			
N.E. — Alex Kinnunen senior, Alex Kinnunen junior			
S.E. — August Johnson, Charlie Johnson, Hugh Martin, Wesley Bell, H. Engman, Jim Currie			
S.W. — Wetlainen, Alex Kinnunen			
N.W. — Andrew Parvi			
Section 19-38-1-5			
N.E. — no residents			
S.W. — Oscar Hilman, Harry Hilman, Richard Staudinger			

Marianne Brands

Most people in this district used to have Shorthorn cattle or crosses thereof.

Since the '40's, the switch has been mainly to Herefords-Dairy cattle used to be dual purpose: Shorthorn in some herds, Ayshires have been used, with a big switch to straight Holstein in the last 20 to 25 years.

New European breeds were introduced in the early '70's with use of Charolais and Simmental bulls. Some new breeds, Maine Angou, Pinzgauer, Chianina, have been tried and dropped with Simmental remaining as the most common bulls used by people on their beef herds.

Richard Staudinger



Branding Britton farm — ouch!



Al Lunggren — mid-wife.

LR
WCB

Wes Bott

LT
WC

Wes Bott

JT

Jack Britton

RtR
JU

Jak Valli

RR
MF

Marianne Farms

SA

Bell's Sylvan Acres

MARIANNE CHURCH HISTORY — by Marjorie Staudinger

The earliest recollections of church services in Marianne, were of gatherings in the home, with ministers coming from other districts or far away places. After the school was built it was also used as a church but house meetings remained very much a part of the community life. In the homes, cherished fellowship could be enjoyed along with refreshments.

Among the churches represented throughout the years, were the Swedish Mission Church, Presbyterian, Baptist, Evangelical Lutheran, Apostolic Lutheran and others. Some of the Swedish Mission ministers were Rev. G. A. Sandien, who came from Burnt Lake, John Nilson from Evarts and Enoch Gilstrom. A Mr. Ecklund was an itinerant minister who came by periodically. He gave all of his time to his ministry and lived very frugally. He travelled the length and breadth of Canada and spoke many languages, but whenever he came to Marianne he conducted his meetings in Finnish and held them at the

school. He always stayed at Alex Staudingers. He is remembered as the 'Pyramid Preacher' as he centered all of his sermons on a pyramid which he drew on the blackboard.

Early Finnish Lutheran ministers were usually sent as missionaries from the northern states. Some came from Finland. Pastor Hjelt used to come to Marianne when he was a resident in the Kuusamo district. Some others were Andrew Ojala from Washington, August Saarela from Minnesota and Charles Ojala, Andrew Wirkkala and Pastor Simi from Oregon.

Rev. McKechnie from the Sylvan Lake Presbyterian church held both church services and Sunday School in the school house, at intervals. Later, Mr. Wm. Sheppard Senior, who travelled far and wide in the surrounding districts, came from Happy Hill, to carry on the same work. For many years his daughter-in-law, Mrs. Wm. Sheppard Junior, who then lived in Marianne, continued the Sunday School. When she could no longer carry one,

there was an interlude of no Sunday School in the district.

Summer Vacation Bible School was held several times. Mostly by young folks from the Prairie Bible Institute of Three Hills, with which the Sheppards were affiliated. They also held some special missionary meetings in summer.

In 1947, Miss Aileen Hilman started a Sunday School again. When she moved away it was continued by others of the Apostolic Lutheran Church. At that time, their congregation was holding their regular services in member's homes, in rotation. Though many of their members were from outside Marianne, quite a few were resident there. Sunday School was held in the school in the mornings and church in the afternoons. By 1950, they had badly outgrown the space in the homes and were fortunate to be able to rent the Gospel Chapel at Sylvan Lake in the afternoons on Sunday and for special evening services periodically. Sunday School was continued in the Marianne School. In 1954, desiring to bring the Sunday School and the church service together, they began renting the Legion Hall at Sylvan Lake, which was available on Sunday mornings. In 1959, when the community voted against buying the school, it was put up for sale by the County of Red Deer. The Apostolic Lutheran congregation bought it for \$1200.

Among those who served as pastor of the congregation throughout the years are Mr. Antti Bellikka of Eckville and Mr. John Sutela Senior of Hespero, in the Finnish language. Raymond Hilman Senior spoke in both Finnish and English for a number of years. With the number of Finnish members diminishing, that language is rarely used except during special meetings. Almost every summer, a minister directly from Finland visits here and the sermons are translated, to be understood by all. Some of these men speak fluent English.

Mr. Reg Tisdale of Red Deer served for a number of years and Harry Hilman assisted at that time. Mr. Tisdale has since passed away and Harry has moved to Sorrento, B.C. For one year, from July 1961 to June 1962, Rev. Filmer Siivikko of Clatskanie, Oregon, was a resident minister. Having local men to take some of the services, he was able to visit the Finnish speaking people in other areas, being fluent in both languages. Mr. Siivikko held regular services in Calgary and Brightview while he was here.

At the end of one year, Mr. and Mrs. Siivikko felt they should return to Oregon. Mr. Siivikko had accepted an invitation to escort and translate for the visiting Finnish minister. They went east to the annual church Convention, from which their travels begun. They had travelled for most of six months when Mr. Siivikko was stricken with a massive heart attack. They were in a city only a short distance from the home they were returning to and he died within a few hours of being stricken. Mrs. Siivikko has married again and remains in Oregon.

Present ministers of the congregation are Mr. Carl Juuti and his son, Richard Juuti. Richard is also Sunday School Superintendent.

Philip Hilman is the chairman, Karina Staudinger, the secretary and Harvey Staudinger, the treasurer.

The building has been recently remodeled, adding to the front for more space and a more church-like appearance. Inside, a dais and an altar rail were added

and the floor carpeted. Most recently, with the kind assistance of Gerry Hillier with equipment and material, the men finished stippling the ceiling.

Confirmation is held periodically for children in their early teens. A number of baptisms take place and there has been just one wedding . . . that of Jane Hilman and Chris Crichton.

People who have gone on to take the message of the church to others include Roy Hodges who has spent many years in Nigeria with the Sudan Interior Mission. Roy was sent out through the Prairie Bible Institute. Raymond Hilman Junior attended the Inter-Lutheran Seminary at Minneapolis and is pastor of the Apostolic Lutheran Church at Negaunee, Michigan. A group of young folk, under the direction of Gerald Hilman, have established a church in Yellowknife, N.W.T.

MARIANNE SCHOOL

The need for a school did not seem as pressing in our district, as schools had been formed to the north Kuusamo, south Centreville, west Evarts and east for Burnt Lake. It was 1:30 p.m. in the afternoon of March 15, 1910, when at the home of Peter Bertheuson, Dick Bleay, as chairman, brought the first school meeting to order. Our district may have been late in getting started to form a school district, but when the wheels were set in motion, a lot was accomplished at this first meeting, such as signing of the Declaration, reading of the notice calling the meeting, locating site for the school which was 25 rods east S.W. corner 13-38-2-5, consisting of two acres and the formation of a school board was all accomplished that day. By the number of votes cast, it appears there were 42 voters present. On April 12, 1910, the meeting was set for a half hour later. Mr. P. Bertheuson was appointed chairman. Mr. J. W. W. Slack was voted secretary-treasurer and N. Anderson and O. Norby the other two members. The salary for the secretary was 35 dollars for the balance of the year. At this meeting it was decided to borrow 800 dollars for the purpose of building the school. The minutes of this second meeting are stamped with the Marianne seal No. 2161. So it appears the naming of the school had been done earlier. It was named in honour of Marianne Bertheuson — first white lady in the district.

Business of the third meeting was fast moving and



Marianne school — 1910.

consequential also as the tax rate was set, a house was rented from Mrs. Jack Staudinger at five dollars a month, and a teacher was being considered.

You might say in three meetings Marianne had come into being, taking territory from all four surrounding districts, as it was sandwiched between the districts already formed. The Bank of Ottawa offered a loan at 6% interest and was accepted. The deed for the school site was being obtained and on September 19, 1910 the contract for building the school was awarded to secretary-treasurer Mr. Slack, whose tender was lowest at 165 dollars. Norder Anderson helped him build it. It can be assumed the school was built in the fall of 1910 as in December, 1910 the board was making arrangements for insuring the building valued at 1200 dollars.

A man was hired to set up the desk. Mr. Boswell was the first teacher at a salary of 780 dollars for 1911.

The pupils attending were as follows: George, Gust, Ruth Mabel and Joseph Anderson, Walter Norby, Lillian, Ed, Wener, and Stainor Valli, Merritt Braton, Marianne Hussey, Hilding Ostergran, Mike, Mary and Petra Bertheuson, Walter and Sydney Bertchel, and Flora Staudinger and Carl Engman. A number of teachers followed that first class. These are listed as follows, with a sincere apology to anyone who may have been missed: M. J. Mosley, Miss Smith, Miss Bertha Tot, Miss Vera Lees, Miss Petro, Miss Milne, Miss L. Sigurdson, Miss Laycock, Mrs. B. Learned, Mrs. Austin, Miss Lindman, Mr. Gillespie, Miss Margaret Menzies, Mrs. Delia Bystrom, Miss Carter, Miss Fraser, Miss Janet Ellis, Mrs. Morris, Mrs. Wallace Douglas, Miss Sigurdson, Mrs. Doran, Miss Mannerfeldt, Mrs. Duke Bell.

In 1911, it was found necessary to make the taxes 12 dollars per quarter in order to have a teacher for the year. It was however, necessary to borrow more money to pay the teacher's salaries. In 1913 the school was closed, as the board was unable to collect taxes due. More money was borrowed at 8 percent. The board soon learned to increase the mill rate. In 1912 the taxes had risen to 16 dollars per quarter. A pride of the school and its management must have been evident at this early date, as arrangements for painting, papering, cementing a foundation were made. Miss Smith was engaged at 60 dollars per month in June, 1913. In January 1914, funds were low, debts were piling up and it was decided to write the government and explain the financial shortage and request permission to hold school for a six month term only. A well was drilled in 1916 by Mr. Cox for 42 dollars. Year after year it seemed the same problem persisted — a shortage of finances resulting in borrowing more money at high interest.

A meeting was called September 4, 1918, with the purpose of consolidating of schools with Mr. Dwyer addressing the meeting. Nothing apparently evolved. In November 11, 1922, it was decided to build a barn 16' x 14' — 18 dollars was the labour. An addition was added in 1927. The minutes of numerous meetings reveal only the business of repairing breakages, cleaning the barn, stove pipes, changing storm windows, repairs to well, getting coal, hiring teachers, obtaining wood — even purchasing mouse traps. The last recorded minutes were in 1939. January, 1938, the Rocky Mountain School Division was formed. Interest was lessened to some ex-



First Marianne class — 1910.

tent as the divisional board were responsible for the details of conducting the school.

Marianne was transferred to Red Deer School Division, when the County became responsible. However, it was the school term starting 1956 that the Marianne children boarded a yellow school bus destined for Sylvan Lake school. From the little one-roomed school to the large complex of consolidation, the children adjusted easily. The school building was sold to the Apostolic Lutheran Church where in 1977 it is still in use.

Time moves on, education was progressing with the times, and it was felt a new school was evident for Marianne. It was in 1947 that the children finally had a lovely new school with hard wood floors, furnace in the cement basement, everything they had dreamed of.

The original school building was moved to Benalto shortly after being bought by the late Carl Selstrom. Here it stood on a street in Benalto — a gentle reminder of days gone by, until it burned accidentally in 1976. The people probably most dedicated of all to the school, were the various members of the school board down through the years. I feel they should be mentioned and the number of years served. Please pardon any omissions. Mr. Bertheuson, 10 yrs., J. W. W. Slack, 11½ yrs., N. Anderson, 9 yrs., O. Norby, 1 yr., E. Mannerfeldt, 6 yrs., August Johnson, 12 yrs., N. Bergstrom, 3 yrs., E. Dingman, 5 yrs., A. Staudinger, 6 yrs., Mr. Madden, 3 yrs., C. Ohland, 2 yrs., F. M. Hodges, 10 yrs., D. Bleay, 4 yrs., H. Buckley, 3 yrs., A. Walker, 6 yrs., C. Johnson, 6 yrs., A. Doron, W. Sheppard, W. Kuores, Mr. Britton. The names with no numbers attached, served after the school was included in the Rocky division and the number of years of service, at time of writing are unavailable.

I perhaps should mention one possible problem which was evident at Marianne School in its' earlier years. Marianne had a majority of Finnish speaking people, and being there were so many Finnish children in the school who were speaking little or no English, made it difficult. The children were used to their native tongue in their homes. The teachers were very strict about this offence and so some rather revealing incidents occurred. A grade one boy was strapped on his first day at school for asking an older girl for the English translation of a statement to the teacher, as he was unable to speak a word of English. This same boy wondered if there had been a rule made

that teachers shouldn't smile. Another incident at Marianne, when three Finnish speaking boys were strapped for not getting off a roof when the teacher ordered them to do so. The poor boys' left on the roof were unaware as to why the other children had left, and they had no way of knowing what the teacher wanted. Another amusing incident in closing may be related. The teacher asked each pupil to have a poem ready for recitation. Some of the older children taught a poor unsuspecting grade one to recite, "Crooked nose, dirty toes, that's the way our teacher goes," so should any reader be wholly sympathetic with the children, please reconsider your decision on the matter.

Being that the only public building in the Marianne district was the school, many other functions were held there. Various socials, meetings, Sunday school, Church meetings and showers were some of these. Vacation Bible School was held a few years in the summer holidays, and a couple of times, drama clubs came into being, using the school again. No charge was ever made for such affairs, to my knowledge.

Several years later a skating rink was in evidence at the school, much enjoyed by all the children. The teacherage was built in preparation for Mrs. Morris. It was a very small one-roomed house, possibly 10' x 12' with a sweet little roof over the door with the name of Mariannette in wooden letters. It was used by a few other teachers as well.

Driving by the Marianne district today on a well built gravel road, with proper road signs, modern farm houses, mail boxes dotting the road side, and impressive farm signs, it is hard not to reminisce a little as to what it must have been like in Marianne back in the good old days, and what would Marianne Bertheuson think, were she able to travel that road today.



Marianne gone visiting.

MARIANNE WOMEN'S CLUB — by Pat Ammeter

The events of first years of the Marianne Women's Club are very vague in the minds of most of the women in the district. It is thought the club was organized in the spring of 1941 yet some believe it could have started as early as 1940. No records prior to 1968 were kept. The club was started to care for the needs of the community in conjunction with the school and to provide a social time for the women. Bake sales, bazaars and pie socials were held to raise money for any needs that arose.

There seems to be some blank years between 1943 to 1948 where nothing can be recalled about club activities. Possibly the club became inactive at this time.

The meetings were held once a month with each member taking her turn at having the meeting in her home. This was a special event for many of the women as this was probably one of the biggest social events held in their home at that time. A major housecleaning was in order and the best of lunch was prepared. Because there were no phones yet, this was one way to talk with the neighbors. Some of the women walked to the meetings if it happened to be close to their home.

Some of the very early members were: Mrs. W. Kenzle (who helped organize the club), Mrs. A. Doran, Mrs. P. Berthueson, Miss Violet Kuores, Mrs. S. Valli, Mrs. Bob Hodges, Mrs. L. Rowan, Mrs. N. Leitch, Mrs. C. Johnson, Mrs. E. Johnson, Mrs. Ada, Sr., Mrs. J. Ammeter, and Mrs. W. Shepherd. Others joining later were Mrs. Ed Tihiönen, Mrs. G. Olson, Mrs. A. Kinnonen, Mrs. T. Britton, Mrs. W. Kuores, Mrs. H. Staudinger, Mrs. W. Valli (O. Bystrom) and Mrs. H. Hilman.

About the year 1948, there was concern about getting a piano for the school. Mrs. Kenzle thought it was time to get the ball rolling once again and to reactivate the club to work for a piano. A piano was found at a good price and sufficient funds were raised to purchase it.

In 1956 the Marianne School closed its doors and all the children were bused to Sylvan Lake School. Once again, but with 'new blood', it was felt the need of a club to care for the extra activities such as picnics, bridal showers, farewells, parties and just to get together for the social aspect. It was the enthusiastic spirit of Mrs. Norman Sigurdson (nee Eila Kinnunen, who had attended the club as a girl with her mother) that started the group again, with Mrs. H. Staudinger and Mrs. F. Sigurdson right in behind her pushing. By this time many of the old members had dropped out or moved away and many new ones were added. Mrs. R. Mannerfeldt, Mrs. J. Britton, Mrs. D. Bell, Mrs. W. Bell had also joined. Later Mrs. D. Ammeter and Mrs. H. Periche joined, many of the new members being new brides to the district.

The club was very active for many years. After reassessing the purpose of the club, the women decided to help support other charity organizations. For several years volunteers canvassed for Red Cross and the Heart Fund. Yearly donations were made to the Cancer Fund. Two special projects which the club took part in were: giving a scholarship to the top Grade 9 student (see history of scholarship) and sponsoring a girl to attend Kowloon Rooftop School in Hong Kong. This was a big commitment which took quite a lot of money to support. Finding ways of making money was not always easy. Pie socials, turkey suppers, art show and tea, rummage sale, bake sales, souvenir spoon selling and a quilt raffle were all ways of bringing in funds. The ladies also provided lunch at a few auction sales in the district.

Centennial year, 1967, was a "hi-lite" year for the club. All the members made aprons and hats out of the Alberta tartan. In the spring a tea and art show was held in Sylvan Lake with many artists from the surrounding districts lending their work for the show. In the summer a very attractive display was placed in a store window with many antiques from the Marianne district. Souvenir spoons with 'Marianne' engraved on the bowl were sold during the year.

The activities of the community were not neglected. Every summer, weather permitting, a picnic was held; a shower was given for a new bride in the district; grooms from the district weren't forgotten; farewell parties were put on for anyone leaving the district; housewarming parties welcomed newcomers; and occasionally the club served lunch at special occasions; the senior citizens were remembered every Christmas; anyone hospitalized was sent words of cheer.

At the regular monthly meetings, special guests, such as the Home Economist, cake decorating demonstrator, horticulturists and others, were invited from time to time to make the meetings more interesting.

In the early seventies a few other newcomers joined the club. They were: Mrs. R. April, Mrs. W. Bott, Mrs. W. Kuores (Reneé) and Mrs. B. Bell, Sr.

For a few years, up until the club became inactive, the women took a turn, along with many other clubs, to 'put on' a birthday party at the Sylvan Lake Lodge for those having a birthday that month.

Over the years several women volunteered to write the "Marianne News" for the Sylvan Lake News and Red Deer Advocate. They were: Mrs. N. Leitch, Mrs. H. Staudinger, Louise Staudinger, Mrs. J. Britton, Mrs. D. Ammeter, Mrs. D. Bell and Mrs. W. Kuores (Reneé).

The women had many enjoyable years of working together and getting to know one another. With mixed feelings, in December, 1974, with four members present, it was voted to discontinue the club meetings. That was the very last club meeting held, to this date.

JOHN AMMETER — S.W. 17-38-1-5

John and Adele Ammeter (nee Horlacher) were born in southern Russia and were married in Ibiliss (capital of Georgia, U.S.S.R.) on November 14, 1926. John's father and brothers owned and operated a huge dairy and Swiss cheese business. Adele's father, with his sons, owned and operated a commercial flourmill, water-powered.

In August 1931, John and Adele were forced to leave Russia with their two children, **Leonie** aged four, and **Dietrich** one-year old, and John's aged father and mother for Switzerland, their ancestral homeland.

John and family lived in Switzerland for six years where he worked as a construction laborer, in a steel wool factory, and for four years in a packing plant and sausage factory. This type of work was very difficult for a man accustomed to the call of the land and it did not agree with him.

They decided to emigrate to Canada where two of John's brothers were already farming, one in Alberta and one in Manitoba. However, at that time, only persons with experiences and intentions of farming were allowed to enter Canada. After appearing before a special committee their application was accepted.

Leaving Switzerland, they arrived in Winnipeg at John's brother's farm on July 7, 1937, after a most depressing train ride from Montreal; nothing but rocks, swamps, and scrub brush, the prairies were a great improvement.

From Winnipeg, John went to Alberta alone to scout for land, and finding Alberta more to his liking, returned for his family. Not speaking any English he had plenty of problems communicating. Before leaving Winnipeg he had sent a wire to his brother in Sylvan Lake. But when



John Ammeter's arrival in Canada — 1937.

he arrived there was no brother to meet him. After many attempts to find someone to interpret, he finally managed to send a note to brother Pete by a boy on horseback. The roads were almost impassible due to the rain. Two days after John got to Sylvan Lake, the telegram from Winnipeg arrived!

After returning with the family, they bought the S.W. 17-38-1-5 from R. S. Medearis for 3000 dollars. One hundred acres was still bush. By the following summer, John had cleared fifteen acres of brush by hand, ready for breaking.

The farm buildings were minimal, not even a granary. The house was well ventilated. Many times the water pails had ice on them in the morning, despite a fire stoked all night long. There was no use repairing, so after eleven years of "toughing it out", a new house was built.

Many things were new and strange: such as all the preparation for the threshing crew, almost like a wedding feast; the early fall snowstorms with the crops still in the fields; and the sticky, gooey mud roads!

They bought four horses soon after they had bought the land. About a week later the R.C.M.P. came and told them that one of those horses was stolen and sold at the auction in Red Deer. They had to return the horses to the owner. Luckily the auctioneer gave them their money back. Then they bought cows, one or two at a time. By fall they had five cows. They also bought one sow.

They made butter and sold it at the store in Sylvan Lake for 15¢ a pound at first. Gradually the price went up. Many times one of them walked to town, four miles, carrying up to twenty-five pounds of butter and bringing back some groceries. Now and then they were lucky to get a ride with somebody in a car or buggy. But mostly it was walking all or most of the way. Then they bought a bicycle, which made it a little better when the road was dry, but was useless when it was muddy. John was also using the bike to ride to and from threshing. In 1941 they bought a model A Ford car which was a real improvement. When they got to churning up to forty-five pounds of butter a week they decided to sell cream, and after that they were shipping milk to the Condensery for a number of years.

About a year after they moved to the farm, they had their first market hogs for sale. They brought around 12



Mr. and Mrs. John Ammeter — 50th wedding anniversary.

dollars a piece (in 1938). They also raised turkeys for many years, and chickens until about 1973. Eggs in 1938 were selling for 10 cents a dozen.

The children adjusted well at school. Both starting in grade one again after having been in grade four and grade one in Switzerland. After three months in school they would answer their parents in English when spoken to in Swiss. So the children became English teachers for their

parents. Often they had to act as interpreters as well. Their first school teacher was a Miss Ellis, then a Mrs. Morris, followed by a Mrs. Douglas, also Miss Mannerfeldt (now Mrs. Periche), and Mrs. Doran. The children finished their grades nine with honours in the Marianne school, the daughter, **Leonie**, later taking a course in Calgary as Comptometer operator. She was married on December 26, 1950, to Eugene Sandburg of Minneapolis, Minnesota and they live in Dallas, Texas.

Their son **Dietrich** attended Olds School of Agriculture, winning a scholarship in 1949 and graduating in 1950 with first-grade honours. He was married in April of 1960 and is farming in the Marianne district.

In 1966, John had to retire from farming, for health reasons. They still live on the farmstead, and it was a happy occasion when they celebrated their golden wedding on November 14, 1976.

In the spring of 1967 they visited Switzerland and found a great change after thirty years. They were happy to return to Canada and the quiet life in the country with the great blue skies of Alberta and lots of space for people to get around.

There were many changes for John and Adele over the years that could be mentioned. They were born and raised in the Caucasus where the Russian and German languages were taught in school and a completely different weight and measuring system was used. Now it's back to the metric system, and after thirty-nine years it's just as confusing to them as it is to many other people.



Dietrich's home place.

DIETRICH AMMETER — N.W. 7-38-1-5

It was a cold November day, eleven years ago when Dietrich Ammeter and his family moved into their modern home. The house wasn't quite completed but how could one stay another night in the old cold shack when the new one was nicely heated with a forced-air furnace. The forecast was for 40 degrees below that night.

They recall the first night in the new house. It seemed like a hotel. After being used to the very cold nights in the old house, one could hardly sleep. It was too warm. First thing in the morning when the children got up, they looked for the old cookstove to get warm as had been the habit every day. They were somewhat upset when they couldn't find it. They suddenly realized that they weren't even cold!



Dietrich Ammeter and family.

It was April 9, 1960, that Dietrich married Pat Flick who was born and raised in Sylvan Lake, and who at that time was a telephone operator there.

Prior to their marriage, Dietrich had been living with his folks, engaged in full time farming. In 1956 he purchased his first land, S.W. 18-38-1-5, from Lillian Johnson, one mile west of the home place. The house was beyond repair so the garage from this farm, then being used as a granary, was their first home. It didn't look like a granary, after Dietrich got finished with it. It was a beautiful little 14' x 18' two-roomed home, so neat and compact. Because there was no power and no water, the building was moved to the home place. The farmsite on his land was used for the annual community picnic for many years.

Dietrich, being interested in hogs, set up to enlarge the hog business. He had a few cattle over the years but only as a side line. Progress was poor the first two years as hail took the crop 100% in 1959 and 50% in 1960. Being a town girl, every day was a new experience for Pat.

In the fall of 1960, Dietrich was talking of more land. They were expecting their first child so a bigger house and more income was imperative. They purchased and moved to the W. Kenzle farm, N.W. 7-38-1-W5 in 1961. Michael had arrived and was now three months old. Once again the little house was made into a granary and is still being used.

They lived in the old house five years before building. All the farm buildings and fences were fixed up for hog farming. A new hog barn was built plus other buildings. Dietrich experimented some with winter crops. Winter

wheat was unsuccessful but rye came up a winner. It yielded 65 bushels per acre one year.

After several years of renting the home place, Dietrich purchased the land in 1976. At present he farms other land as well, including Waynes Kuores' half-section. All the land Dietrich farms has been drilled for oil, all being dusters except, the well on the first land he bought and the one on the quarter they live on. The hog business has grown to approximately 400 hogs, prices ranging from 19 to 75 cents over the years.

Besides a son **Michael**, three daughters, **Judy**, **Jackie**, and **Heidi**, were born to them. All but Heidi are presently attending the Sylvan Lake school, going by bus.

In April of 1976, Gerald and Denise Shebeck became their first full-time help in the hopes of solving the perennial problem of getting competent help.

NJORDER ANDERSON SE 18-38-1-5

As was the Swedish custom, Njorder Anderson's surname was derived from his father's first name. Hence the son of Anders Halvarson and Ingeborg Nelson of Wermeland, Sweden, became Anderson upon his debut into the world on November 9, 1862. Hilda Cecilia Anderson, daughter of Adolph Frederick Anderson and Caroline Hellstrom of Smaland, Sweden, was born November 1, 1867. She didn't have to change her last name when she became Mrs. Njorder Anderson on April 21, 1891, at Gerivis, Polk County, Minnesota. Njorder Anderson had emigrated from Sweden to Emardville, Minnesota. Hilda Cecilia had come with her father, to Plummer, Minnesota, and later helped her two younger brothers to come from Sweden to farm in Minnesota.

It was through his work on the railroad that Mr. Anderson learned of homestead land in Alberta. In 1900 he made the trip to Red Deer, to locate one for himself. In 1901, he brought his wife and family to their new homeland. Travelling by C.P.R. to Red Deer, they made their way to Burnt Lake by team and wagon. Like many homesteaders going west, they stopped over at Burnt Lake for a time. Mr. Anderson's trade as a master carpenter was a valuable asset with a home and farm buildings to erect. In 1902 he built a three-room log house and the family moved into their new home. Later it was covered with siding, hauled from Red Deer and in 1906, five rooms, a pantry and a washroom were added. It was a large house by pioneer standards but it was a very necessary project for the Andersons. They not only had several children but theirs was one of the "stopping-places", as they were commonly called, between Red Deer and Rocky Mountain House.

When a barn was built, a team of oxen, two cows and 50 chickens were added to inhabit it. In 1911 this first barn became a machine shed when a new barn was built. The unique construction of the new barn was a tribute to Mr. Anderson's engineering ability. Built upon concrete foundation and piers, 18 inch blocks of poplar log were mortared together with a mixture of mud, clay and water. Consequently, the walls were 18 inches thick, for warmth in winter and coolness in summer. Only the very young do not remember this barn. It was a conversation piece in the community until it was demolished in 1961.

As the land was cleared, the first grain sown was oats. The breaking plow, disc and harrows were pulled by ox-



Njorder Anderson's stop-over barn made of blocks of wood.

en. Seeding, as well as cutting, stacking, flailing and winnowing, were all done by hand. Oats were used as feed for the stock. Later, wheat was grown. A supply of wheat was reserved for home use and the rest was hauled to Sylvan Lake by sleigh in winter, to be sold.

Indians in the area were very friendly. They liked Mrs. Anderson's homemade bread and always seemed to know when she baked. It was made from their own wheat grown, threshed, ground into flour and baked, all on the farm. The Indians always brought something to trade for the bread.

The older children, Ruth, George and Gus, attended school at Burnt Lake until the Marianne school was built in 1910. After that, Marianne was their school. Mr. Anderson's carpentry was again appreciated as it was he who worked with the contractor Mr. Slack, to erect the building. George Anderson hauled the lumber by team from Red Deer. Mr. Anderson served as one of the first trustees, a post he held for nine years. He also served as chairman.

The Andersons first attended the Mission Friends Church at Burnt Lake. They were among it's founding families. After the Marianne school was built, they went to services there, when ministers came from other places to conduct services and Sunday School.

When Burnt Lake was drained and the railway was built there, Mr. Anderson worked on these projects. These jobs were important to the homesteader as it took years before the farm yielded actual money which was much needed for buying seed grain and stock. Road work was also done by the local farmers in payment for taxes.

Children of Mr. and Mrs. Njorder Anderson are as follows: **Joel Ingvald**, born July 13, 1892, Minnesota, died June 3, 1893. **Ruth Ingeborg**, born April 4, 1894,

Minnesota, died October 14, 1911. **Adolph George**, born June 12, 1895, Minnesota, married to Florence Johnson of Marianne. They celebrated their golden wedding in El Monte, California in 1969. **Gustaf Bernhard**, born December 9, 1897, Minnesota. He and his wife, Anne, live in California. **Joseph William**, born October 11, 1899, in Minnesota. He and his wife Marie, live in California. **Mabel Rosalie**, born September 7, 1902, at Burnt Lake, and died in 1973. **Adele Caroline**, born September 26, 1904, at Marianne. She is married to Donald Peterson of Albion, Michigan, and has two girls, one son, and five grandchildren. **Martin Otto**, born November 11, 1906, at Marianne. He is not married, and lives in Chilliwack, British Columbia. **Hildur Elvira**, born December 31, 1908, is now Mrs. Arthur Touzeau, and lives in Hope, British Columbia. The Touzeaus have one daughter and two grandchildren. Mrs. Touzeau has provided us with the information on her family.

In 1922, the Andersons traded their farm in Marianne for property at Chilliwack, British Columbia, and moved from the district.

GEORGE BECHTHOLD — S. ½-19-38-1-W5

George Bechthold was born in North Dakota in 1908. He came to Canada with his folks in 1912, homesteading in the Foremost area. At the age of eighteen he started farming on his own one mile west of the family home. He farmed there until 1963.

Myrtle Bechthold was born in Harvey, North Dakota. Her parents homesteaded in the Beiseker area. She took her normal school training in Calgary and then taught school in the Foremost area. George and Myrtle were married in 1935.

They came here to Marianne in 1967, coming from Creston, British Columbia. They enjoyed gardening and growing plants which was their pastime. In Foremost he had had a beautiful shelter belt and here in Marianne he planted trees also. Myrtle made up many terrariums.

While living here, Myrtle was a member of the Marianne Women's Club and they were staunch members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, serving respectively as deacon, deaconess and treasurer.

In 1972 they moved to Lacombe. George passed away in March, 1973. Myrtle passed away in September, 1975. They had four children: **Alvin**, living on the home place in Foremost, **Marie** Cliffe of Woking, Alberta, **Arlene** McAfee living at Beiseker, Alberta, and **Dennis** of Sydney, British Columbia.

Keith and Arlene spent one winter living on her parents farm. Keith worked for Duke Bell. The McAfee's have four children: Glen, grade eleven at Canadian Union College, Karen in grade nine and Lyndon in grade eight at Level Land Academy and Trevor is fifteen months old.

BELL'S SYLVAN ACRES LTD. N.W. 6-38-1-5

Marmaduke Albert Bell was born in the home of his parents, Bertram and Ann Bell, in the Centerville district on June 22, 1922. He shared this honor with his twin sister, Marjorie Alberta, now Mrs. Arthur Severtson of the Kuusamo district.

Duke attended school in Centerville. Recollections of school days include riding "old Tony" and lighting the fire for the school, his lunch tasting of kerosene from the kerosene-soaked rag used to coax the fire to burn. One memorable occasion was a winter day when the Bell children were driving home from school with the horse and cutter. They stopped to pick up their teacher, Mr. Bert Cody. As he jumped into the cutter, the horse shied and started to gallop, kicking the front of the cutter as he went. Mr. Cody took the reins from Duke who was unable to control the horse, but pulled so hard on the lines that one line broke and they all landed in the ditch.

Duke enjoyed the inter-school ball games as they had a pretty good ball team, he thought. One game stands out in particular when Mr. Cody loaded his team in his coupe (complete with rumble-seat) to play the Happy Hill team whose teacher was Lily Bystrom (later Mrs. Cody). Mr. Cody, anxious to make a good impression on his lady-friend, told his team to go easy on this team — beat them, but only by a couple of runs. Mr. Cody, playing first base, allowed the first ball to go right between his legs. That started the rally! The final score was 21 to 3 in favor of Lily Bystrom's team. The students didn't let Mr. Cody forget that one in a hurry.

School was really meant only to be endured, so Duke was happy to be able to quit at the end of Grade 9 and start trucking. He hauled milk to the Central Alberta Dairy Pool from the farmers of this and surrounding districts for 25 years. He was also engaged in a general trucking business.

Milk-hauling had its interesting times, too. One time, Gwenyth Jones, a teacher at the Burnt Lake School, met him at the nearby milk-stand to give him a letter to mail for her. Duke decided to show off his driving skills by driving as close to the milk-stand as he dared. But in his excitement, he drove right into the milk-stand tipping it

over. Two cans of milk poured all over the ground and Gwenyth had to jump to avoid a milk-bath. He really made an impression that time!

Central Alberta Dairy Pool, rather than mail the cheques to the shippers, would put them in the empty cans. If the shipper did not notice the cheque, it would end up at the bottom of a can of milk. In exasperation, Duke finally offered to pay the postage if the Dairy Pool was too poor to buy the stamps. Obediently, they charged him up with the first month's stamps. But they have been mailing the cheques to the shippers ever since! Butter was also delivered in the empty cans — and on hot days, it arrived in a rather liquid state.

Duke took time off to attend Canadian Union College in Lacombe for the 1947-48 school year. It was at Canadian Union College that he met Evelyn McLuhan, and as he says, "married his degree". Evelyn was a city girl, getting her elementary school education in Edmonton; Davenport, Iowa (where her Dad studied chiropractic work); Victoria; Port Alberni and Vancouver. The family finally settled in Victoria where she completed high school, a year of university and Normal School. She taught grade school in British Columbia before deciding to return to complete her college education, first at Canadian Union College and then at Walla Walla College in Washington. She returned to Canadian Union College as a teacher upon completion of her Bachelor Arts course and summer school at the University of Alberta.

Duke and Evelyn were married on Christmas Day, 1948, in Victoria, British Columbia. They built a new house on the Bertram Bell farm. Coming to the farm was a real experience for the new bride from the city. It seemed they were snowed-in every week-end that first winter. Among the memories are the running water, which only ran if you did the running; getting your exercise by going to the outdoor bathroom or hauling water; washing clothes outside, and trying to get frozen clothes off the line, tearing her beautiful trousseau lingerie in the attempt; trying to raise chickens, only to have them eaten by the coyotes or run to death by their little dog "Tippy"; waiting for the corn to grow to the size she was used to in British Columbia; watching all the hard work put into raising a garden destroyed in one killing frost in September! Trying unsuccessfully to get some light from a gas lamp, which seemed to glow just like electricity when Duke did it; feeding threshers breakfasts, dinner, supper and in-between, when she had never learned how to cook (girls, that is a fast way to learn!); taking meals to the field when she couldn't even drive a car (that is also a good way to learn); going to Women's Club and piled into Mrs. Bergstrom's old truck; but most of all the friendliness of neighbors and relatives who helped her through all this education she had never learned in school.

In 1952, in partnership with his brother Brian, Duke bought a farm in the Marianne district from F. M. Hodges. They are still residing on this farm. How they have enjoyed the flowers and trees planted by Mr. and Mrs. Hodges! They bought the William Shepard farm in the fall of 1952. Other farms purchased in the Marianne district were the half-section belonging to the Bertheuson estate and the quarter-section from L. J. Rowan (now owned by Ed Pogadl).

Evelyn Bell taught school from January to June of 1950 in the Burnt Lake School. How could she teach all 9 grades in one room after teaching commercial subjects in high school and college? But it was fun! Those Burnt Lake students coming to school on horseback; their terrific school spirit; their enthusiasm for sports; the desire, built into each of them by their parents and district, to further their education — all are cherished memories.

Evelyn also taught school in the Marianne district for four years, from the fall of 1952 until the spring of 1956, when the schools were consolidated and the students were bussed to Sylvan Lake. She continued to teach in Sylvan Lake for the following two years; grades seven and eight for the first year, and grades one and two in the W.I. Hall for her last year.

Marianne School was the “hub” for the activities of the district — birthday parties, skating on the Bertheuson slough, wedding showers, picnics. Those were the days when even the simplest entertainment seemed satisfying. Marianne had a good ball team, too — especially with so many boys in the school. Even their dog “Buster” was happy when he could walk to school with Evelyn and play ball with the “kids”. The roads weren’t all that good, either. Evelyn rather surprised her students one day when she arrived on the tractor, especially since she didn’t even know how to start one. And one morning when the drifts were piled high and hard, Duke took her to school on the “cat”. The Bells followed with interest as these young Marianne students grew up and took their place in the world.

Duke and Evelyn lived in the unoccupied Marianne School for four months in the summer of 1956 while they

were building a new home on the Hodges’ farm. The Hodges’ cottage was sold and moved to the Poplar Ridge District.

It was about this time that a new member was added to the Duke Bell household — a dark-haired, brown-eyed little bundle of sunshine whom they named **Rosemarie Susan**. In 1961 another little brown-eyed girl was added to the family — **Margery Lynne**. Now Evelyn had a full-time job at home.

In 1958, Duke and Brian began a construction business which grew and developed through the years. They bought a ranch in the Stauffer district and began raising cattle. This was to off-set the grain-farming which had just had a severe set-back having been hailed out completely. Brian and his family moved to this ranch from their home in the Centerville district.

The ranch became self-contained by 1970 and the brothers formed two separate companies — Brian’s “Bell-View Ranch” and Duke’s “Bell’s Sylvan Acres” which they are still operating.

Rosemarie Susan Bell attended school in Sylvan Lake, at Canadian Union College and at Pacific Union College in California, taking a course in (medical) secretarial science. On December 1, 1974, she was married to Arvin Patrick McCarty, of Lacombe, who was employed by Duke in the farming and construction business. They resided in their mobile home on the Duke Bell farm until very recently when they moved to their own farm in the Centerville district — the farm formerly owned by Bert Fors.

Margery Lynne Bell attended school in Sylvan Lake and Canadian Union College elementary and is at present in Grade 10 in the new Sylvan Meadows Academy, which was built on the farm formerly owned by Mr. Harry Bennett.

Duke and Evelyn Bell and their girls have been active members of the Seventh-Day Adventist Church. Duke has been youth leader of the church several times and their home has been the center for many activities both of the church and the community.



Duke Bell family.

OTHER FAMILIES THAT HAVE RESIDED ON THE FARM BELONGING TO BELL'S SYLVAN ACRES

1. **DON AND BERYL BAIS** — came from Vancouver in the summer of 1963. Don was employed by Bells both on the farm and in construction. He was a very versatile worker and built the second house on the farm, in which they lived until the fall of 1966 when they moved to the United States, so that Don could further his education. Beryl is a daughter of Duke’s sister, Barbara Trussell. They had two children: Brenda, a friend and playmate for Margery; and Roland who was born while they lived here.

2. **RALPH AND SHIRLEY KENZLE** located a mobile home on Bell’s Sylvan Acres in 1965. Ralph worked on construction until the fall of 1967 when they left to live in Red Deer where Ralph was employed by Union Tractor. They have two daughters, Tina and Monica. Both Ralph and Shirley were former students of Mrs. Duke Bell. They are at present living in a trailer court in Calgary.

3. **DON AND BERNICE MILLER** moved into the house formerly occupied by Don and Beryl Bais on the Bell farm, in January, 1967, until they were able to buy their own farm in the Kuusamo district later that fall.

4. **BERTRAM AND ANN BELL** moved into the little house on the Duke Bell farm in the fall of 1967, leaving their home in the Centerville district to their son Wesley and his family. "Grandpa" Bell passed away in March, 1970, but "Grandma" Bell continues to live here. Soon after they moved, Grandma and Grandpa Bell took a group of their grandchildren to the ranch at Stauffer. Each child selected a pine or spruce which were tagged with the names of the children and transplanted into a hedge in their new home. Some of these tags are still visible. "Grandma" Bell's love of flowers is evidenced by her beautiful flowerbeds, which she tends with loving care.

5. **TED ANDREWS**, in the fall of 1969, after the death of his wife, left Vancouver to come and work on the farm at Bells. In 1971, Ted, his new wife Nancy and her three children, bought a mobile home and located it north of the smaller house on Bell's Sylvan Acres.

6. **RALPH AND LYNN SELAND** bought the trailer from Ted Andrews in the summer of 1971, when he came to work for Bell's Sylvan Acres. Originally a Pine Hill resident, Ralph had been teaching at Canadian Union College since 1965. Mrs. Seland, nee Lynn Adams, is a Montana girl. They have two children: Dougie, who is eight years old and Bonnie who is seven.

7. **GERALD AND DENISE SHEBECK** — Gerald, a nephew of Evelyn Bell, from North Dakota came to work for his Uncle Duke in the summer of 1972. Life on the farm wasn't too bad so he brought his bride, Denise Aspinall, to live there too. Gerald was employed in farming and construction and kept the books for both the farming and construction operations. He is currently employed by Dietrich Ammeter. They have one son, David, who was born while they were living at Sylvan Acres.

8. **RICHARD AND SARA BELL** — A double-wide mobile home was added to Bell's Sylvan Acres in 1974 when Richard decided that farming was a better life than airplane mechanics. A daughter, Candice, was born to Richard and Sara (nee Fehr), during this time. But "flying" was in his blood, and Richard left to teach aeronautics in Lloydminster, Saskatchewan. Richard is a nephew of Duke Bell.

9. **MITCHELL AND DELSENA WILLIAMS** — "Mitch" came to work in construction for Bells in 1975. In 1975 Mitch and Delsena and their son Rod came to live in the double-wide trailer, when Mitch decided to work full-time on the farm. A second son, Mitchell Harvey Junior, was born since they lived here.

WESLEY BELL — PT. S.E. 18-38-1-5 — S.E. 24-38-2-5 — by Pearl Bell

Soon after our second son, Kevin, was born, April 19, 1959, we moved to 80 acres of land which we purchased from L. J. Rowan, south-west of Sylvan Lake. Previously we had lived in Red Deer for five and one-half years. We had electricity but no running water. With a new-born baby and two older children, Bertram, age six and Dawn,



Wesley Bell family.

age five, we used a considerable amount of water, heating and hauling it whenever we needed it.

It was an old house and for the summer months it was ideal, but it wasn't suitable for winter so before long we were looking for a better house. Bert started school in September of that year.

In October we bought and moved to the former Charlie Johnson farm. We enjoyed living there very much although we had our joys and sorrows. We were kept busy caring for the big yard and garden with lovely fruit trees and attending club meetings, etcetera. Wesley was working at the Provincial Training School in Red Deer and was working all shifts so he wasn't home too much.

On November 22, 1960, our second daughter, Denise, was born. I recall we had a considerable amount of snow that year.

In 1961 we discovered that Dawn, our oldest daughter, had a congenital heart condition. After tests and examinations she had open heart surgery in the Holy Cross Hospital in Calgary in February, 1964.

We lost eight cows from bloat in the fall of 1962. This was a heartache and a great loss. On February 20, 1963, our youngest son, Bradley was born. Not long after, we decided we needed more land as we were getting quite a herd of cattle. In April, 1963, we moved to the Evergreen District, 18 miles west. We moved to the Bertram Bell home place in Centerville in October, 1967.

In 1976, we moved to Bentley, where Wesley is currently employed by the Lacombe School Board. Pearl is employed at the Sylvan Lake Lodge.

Bertram is taking studies at Red Deer College and working at Alberta School Hospital. **Dawn** is working in the office at the Adviser. The other three children are still

attending school; **Kevin** in Sylvan Lake and **Denise** and **Bradley** at Sylvan Meadows Academy.

PETER BERTHEUSON

The Marianne district is located six miles south of Sylvan Lake, and was so named in the year 1909 in honor of the first white woman who settled there, Mrs. Marianne Bertheuson. A farm near Narvick, Norway, was the birthplace of Marianne Olsen, who, in 1893 at the age of eighteen, decided to travel to the United States with an uncle from North Dakota who had been visiting the family. She lived with her relatives there just one year when she met her future husband, Peter Bertheuson, who was also recently from Norway. It was in the spring of 1893, that Peter travelled up to Red Deer in the North West Territories of Canada and filed on a homestead in Burnt Lake.

Leaving an unfinished cabin on his newly acquired land, he returned to Grand Forks, North Dakota, and there on November 22, 1894, he and Marianne were married. When the newly married couple arrived in Red Deer exactly one week later, they were met by Angus Martin, who took the couple, their luggage, and a used stove to the homestead of John Hawks (the property across the road from the Burnt Lake Community Centre.)

The Bertheusons stayed with the Hawks for several weeks until the cabin on their own homestead could be finished. This original homestead was later abandoned by the young couple, as they felt that this brush-covered land would be too difficult, and take too long to clear. This land is now owned by Earl Grimson. Bertheusons finally decided to settle four miles west of there. The cabin they built had a sod roof and Mrs. Bertheuson later recalled hanging blankets above the children's bed to keep the rain from them. She herself went about her chores wading in pools of water on the floor. There were no roads, just trails winding around the sloughs.

Aside from the many Indians living all around, their nearest neighbor, Sigurd Grimson, was six miles away. By this time the family owned a team of horses, as well as a cow and calf, but had no furniture, except what was hand-made, and a few dishes. The first summer there, they shot a large deer which was salted down and became their meat supply for the rest of the summer. When Mrs. Bertheuson wanted meat for a meal, she would have to soak the salted venison over-night. Land was cleared and spaded for a garden, but only potatoes were grown the first years; other vegetable seeds were too expensive to buy. It was several years before they had enough land cleared to grow a crop.

During this time Peter would hire out to work in the hay fields at Burnt Lake. Evarts was the Bertheuson's post office and store. Coffee was thirty-five cents a pound, and the first one-hundred-pound sack of flour was two dollars and thirty-five cents. They traded butter at twenty-five cents a pound and eggs at five cents a dozen for their groceries.

One fall during those first years, Peter started to walk to Markerville to vote. He took his gun with him, and was so lucky to find and shoot a large black bear, and then by marking his way home, with his pocket knife, was able to return with Mrs. Bertheuson, the children and the wagon for his new supply of meat. They sold the

hide to a storekeeper in Red Deer for ten dollars, which was a princely sum. The Bertheuson's started to raise sheep, and Marianne would card the sheared wool and then spin it into the finished wool product that could be made into clothing for her family. She had a large floor loom, and put it to very good use, weaving yards and yards of rag rugs, which she not only used herself, but sold to the settlers.

There were few settlers for the first six years, and it was not until 1900 that they began to come in from the United States. Their first near neighbors were Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Hilderbrand, and later Eric Mannerfeldt, Ed and Martin Loken, John Johnson, and Charlie Schill. For years one day was much the same as another, except that Sunday was the big day of the week. While families would walk the miles between homes, stay for dinner and sometimes supper as well. In an interview in her seventy-eighth year, Mrs. Bertheuson laughingly recalled that her family and the nearby Loken family walked back and forth across the three miles so often that she was sure that the marks must still be on the ground.

In 1914, with the coming of World War 1, prices for their produce began to climb and financial conditions improve. By 1915 the Berthueson's with four children needed larger quarters and so they built a two-story home beside the original log cabin. The oldest son, Mike, enlisted but Armistice was signed before his company was to go overseas. Marianne aided the war effort herself, by devoting many, many hours to sewing and knitting for the Red Cross, and again in the Second World War, although she was nearing her seventies, she knitted close to one hundred pairs of socks which she sent to the boys overseas.

The first school the Bertheuson children attended was Kuusamo and later they were sent to Evarts. Both Kuusamo and Centerville, had large school districts, and when Marianne was formed, a strip of land was taken from the south side of Kuusamo and the north side of Centerville. Peter Bertheuson served on the school board for many years. Among the first teachers were Mr.



Bertheuson family.

Boswell, Miss Fox, and Miss Smith. The school was also used for dances and church services. A Lutheran minister, Rev. A. Hjortaas, held the first church service there. The Bertheuson's oldest daughter, Mary Doran, was teacher at Marianne from 1942-1951.

Peter passed away in 1936 at the age of 66 years. Mrs. Bertheuson continued to live on the homestead as did her son Mike, who farmed the land until the following year, when Mary and son-in-law Andy Doran arrived from southern Alberta to take over the homestead. Mrs. Bertheuson and her son moved directly north to another farm, where she kept well and active until her seventy-ninth year when she became paralyzed with a stroke and was bed-ridden until 1958, when she passed away at the age of 83 years. Mike still resides in the district. Mary is now deceased. The younger daughter, Petra, married Harold Huget and lived in Red Deer until her passing. Her daughter June is married to Charles Cummins of Edmonton, and with a family of five children resides in Calgary. The Youngest member of the Bertheuson family, Ole, was employed by a C.N. bridge gang for many years and also farmed near Calgary. He is now retired in Calgary.

MIKE BERTHEUSEN N.E. 11-38-2-5

Mike was born in 1897 to Peter and Marianne Bertheusen. Their home was a sod house that had been built by a squatter and then deserted. Rails were fastened across the top and these were covered with home-made shingles. Rabbits and partridges provided the diet. They were so plentiful that on a moonlit night, one could count as many as twenty-five, just in the yard. For shoes the children wore shoe-pacs. This was a type of moccasin stuffed with hay for insulation. They were nothing for looks, but served the purpose.

Mike remembers when he was four or five, how the Indians were always going by, a few in wagons and some walking. Usually they camped on a knoll on the Kuores quarter, and the next day they would move on. They caught muskrats by jabbing a spear into the muskrat house. They used them for meat and also sold the furs. The Burnt Lake Trail, according to Mike, was really an Indian trail to start with. Mike by the way, was the first white boy born in this area. It took a few years for any neighbors to be near the Bertheusons.

In 1908, the family went to Red Deer to see their first circus. Such excitement! They even went to the photographer and had a family portrait taken that day. It was one o'clock in the morning when they finally got home, and the cows were waiting to be milked. Mike's father was known many times to walk into Red Deer to carry home groceries the family needed.

Mike was eight years old when he started school in Kuusamo. The school was on the Bennett farm, and he followed a trail to get there. Later when the Marianne school was formed in 1910, and in operation in 1911, Mike was one of the first pupils. In winter the little creek east of the school would flow, making a dandy rink. The children were given one and one-half hours for dinner, and they would skate and play around the willows. The water for the school was carried by the children from the farmer who lived on the south side of the spruce trees on what is now the Staudinger farm. Mike quit school when he was fourteen.



Bertheuson family — 1908.

Mike grew up knowing hard work. He was eight or nine years old when his dad paid him five cents a week to keep the barns clean. A relative from California said to him, "Why do you work so hard?" and he replied, "I have to work anyway, so I might as well get paid for it." He saved until he had one dollar and twenty cents, and then he went to Evarts and bought his first tailor-made overalls.

Mike recalls vividly when after work was done at night, he would go to Njorder Andersons and play with the children there. It was so much fun playing hide-and-seek in the big barn, and when someone would get dangerously close to being caught, they could disappear through the feed-holes in the loft and make it home-free. He also said that many nights, it was too dark to spot the peg for playing horseshoe, and to still make it visible, they would tie a white cloth around the stake, and so be able to see it further.

Trapping muskrats made Mike some money, too. He sent many of the pelts to St. Louis, and got from ten cents to seventy-five for a pelt. This was big money for kids then. During threshing time, the boys would shoot prairie chickens to feed the threshers. Their horse Bessie, was so well trained, she would stop in her tracks if she saw a chicken. Most of the time when this happened, they were going to town, and didn't have a gun.

Mike started farming for himself in 1921. In 1927 he got his first steel-wheeled tractor — a John Deere 'D'. He

paid 1,200 dollars for it and a three-bottomed plow. He used his tractor for seven years and got 700 dollars on a trade in. The spring that Mike got his tractor, he got up as soon as it was light enough to see the wheel tracks and he would start seeding. Sometimes working until 11 o'clock at night.

The winter of 1930-31 was an open winter. About two inches of snow fell in November, then the weather turned warm. The ice on the slough was clear until March. Many nights, after the chores were done, the young people would meet at the Myer slough for a midnight frolic. A bonfire was usually built in the centre and many people came to skate. On Sundays, there would be as many as a hundred people skating. Some even came from town. The men always had a hockey team and they would go by horse and cutter as far west of Leslieville, and east to Ridgewood to play. In the summer there was always a ball-team with Mike and his brother Oli, Grant Cameron, the Valli boys, Lorne Neilson, and the Kuores boys usually making up a team. Mr. Jamieson was the referee.

A few years ago, Mike still spent some time skating with the neighbor children on the Bertheuson slough. Today he is semi-retired, living on his farm across the road from the home-place. Two summers ago he had the thrill of watching a fox and her litter growing up in the culvert at his gate.

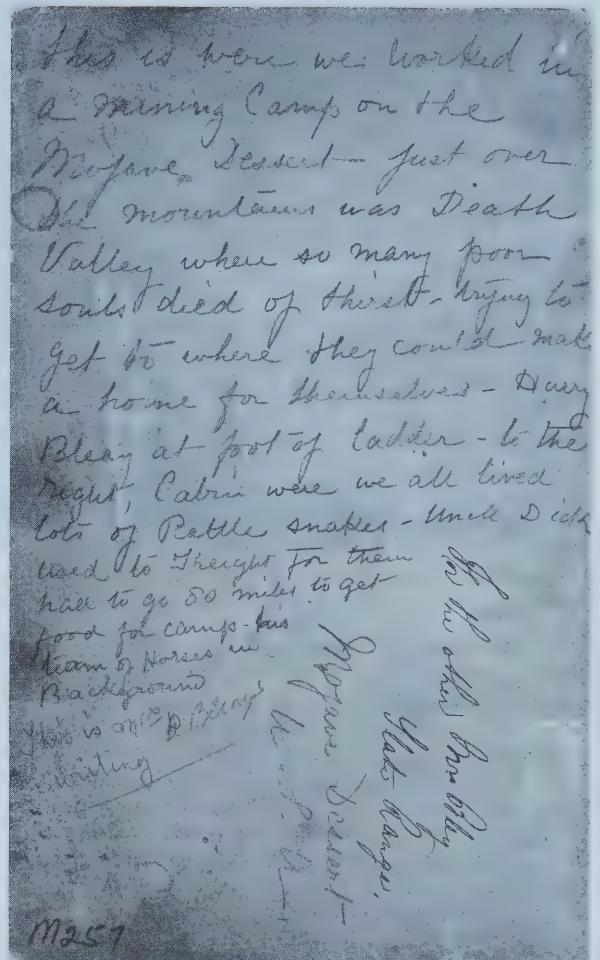
RICHARD WARD BLEAY

Richard Ward Bleay, better known as Dick, was born in Oxford, England, August 21, 1854. He spent his younger days in India as a soldier, and on his return home he married Alice Maud Mary Bearchell. They came to America in September, 1902, and after spending ten years in California at Moneta, a small place which is now somewhere in the heart of Los Angeles. Here they had a strawberry farm. They also spent some time in the Mojave desert, just over the mountain from the famous Death Valley. Dick's brother Harry was here with him, where they freighted with horses and mules from the borax factory there. They encountered many rattlesnakes here among other discomforts.

According to the school minutes, Dick Bleay had settled in the Marianne district by 1910 or before as his name appears in the school minutes at the first



Mr. and Mrs. Dick Bleay — 1936.



organizational meeting where he was chairman. The Bleays had spent about six months in Red Deer prior to coming to Marianne. Dick bought land which was called pre-emption land — saved for Boer War Veterans and it was on his land that the newly formed Marianne school was built. His family always thought the homestead house was a wonderful piece of work, as it was built by one of the Finnish settlers who only had one arm, and used only primitive tools to square the logs and dovetail the corners.

Dick Bleay was an auctioneer, and was mentioned many times in regard to auction sales throughout the countryside. It is understood that he held some horse sales.

Because of unfortunate circumstances, three young boys, Albert (Bert), Sidney and Walter Bearchell, ranging in age from 16 to seven years old, came alone from England to be with their uncle and aunt, Mr. and Mrs. Dick Bleay in 1916. Their older brother Harry had preceded them and worked for the Fitches in the Center-ville district. He later gave his life in the war services, being wounded and later died of wounds and pneumonia in England at an early age. Sidney and Walter went to school at Marianne for a time. Bert also served in the navy during the first World War, and married June 14, 1917, on returning to Canada, to Alice Curr. Bert was custodian of the post-office in Red Deer for many years.



Borax mine on the Mojave desert where the Bleays worked.

He passed away in 1961. Sidney worked in Red Deer for a time, for the C.P.R. and was then transferred to various places, finally to Vancouver where he passed away some time ago. Walter married also, had nine children and lived in Edmonton. He passed away in November 1975.

A family by the name of Rolands, came to the Marianne district with the Dick Bleay family, living there for a short time near the Bleays, Mrs. Roland and Mrs. Bleay were sisters. The Rolands had come from England in 1901, and to the States where they worked with the Bleays, coming to Alberta also together. The stay in Marianne was a short one for about nine months, when they moved to Content where they homesteaded four miles from the Carrol school. Mr. Roland built a little house while he was at Marianne.

The Bleays moved from Marianne in 1917. Dick's brother Harry had also homesteaded in the Marianne district, but nothing is known of how long he stayed or where he went after. Mr. and Mrs. Bleay found a new home at Alix, Alberta, where Dick was an avid gardener for years. He passed away at the ripe old age of 95. Mrs. Bleay lived to be one hundred and five, living the last years of her life with the Simmons of Alix, and the Red Deer Nursing Home.



Wesley Bott and family.

WESLEY BOTT — Pt. S.E. 18-38-1-5

Wesley Bott came to live with his grandfather, Jacob Thompson, in the Marianne district in 1969. Here Wesley kept his grandfather company, while finishing his high school at Sylvan Lake. After graduating from high school, he worked at Alberta School Hospital, Red Deer, where he met Clara Miller, whose home was at Acme. After their marriage, March 4, 1972, Wesley and Clara made their home on the acreage. Wesley commuted to A.S.H., and kept farming in his spare time. His mixed farm consisted of a billy-goat, several sheep, and some pigs. Wes is taking a course at Red Deer College in Rehabilitation Counselling which will assist him in his employment at Ash-Deerhome.

Wes and Clara have two boys, **Jamie and Brent**.

ROBERT A. BRATTBERG — N.W. 10-38-2-W5

Robert Brattberg was born at Bentley Alberta in 1936. In the fall of 1966, Robert married me (Marlene Smith), daughter of Marvin and Irene Smith of Glenwood, Alberta, near Waterton Park.

Since our marriage, we have moved ten times. The first year we were married, we both worked up north. **Carla** was born April 19, 1970 at Cardston, Alberta. **Rhonda Marlene** came along October 3, 1971, also at Cardston. We resided down in southern Alberta for three and a half years where Bob worked at various construction jobs, (building roads, paving highways).

In the late fall of 1973 we made our move to where we now reside. The night we moved was October 31, and cold and miserable. There was two inches of snow from Bowden to Sylvan Lake and the wipers on the old truck

weren't much to write home about and neither was the heater. From that night on the snow never quit falling. It turned out to be one heck of a year for snow and wind.

On February 8, 1976, our son arrived into this world. We named him **Robert Andrew**. This year Carla started grade one, and Rhonda started kindergarten.

THOMAS TAYLOR BRITTON — by Mrs. T. Britton SE 22-38-2-5

Thomas Taylor Britton hailed from Bristol, England, from a family of ten children. There were four girls and six boys. Tom's identical twin brother was given a name which had been in the family several generations. It was Coss.

Tom went to work at 14 years of age, apprenticing with a butcher for four years. At the age of 18, he came to Canada working on a dairy farm, and also for a rancher. He recalled riding 80 miles in one day for medicine for his boss's children, which involved two twenty-mile trips to Calgary and back. Tom took the flu' in the fall of 1918, and because there was no more room in the hospitals in Calgary, he stayed in a tent with some other boys with the same affliction. Luckily Tom survived this ordeal.



The Britton family.

I was born in Penhold district of a family of seven in 1895. I met and married Tom here where we farmed for a few years. We then bought a quarter-section owned by Peter Cameron in the Marianne district. We moved there by wagon in March, 1926, with our two little girls Elizabeth and Daisy. We rented the quarter adjoining our farm from Mrs. Helga Mannerfeldt, and farmed with horses.

In 1929, our son John T. was born and the little girls soon were old enough to go to Marianne school. Seeing it was three miles away, we had to have Lars Hillman of Benalto drive them to school. Tom was a school trustee for Marianne for many years. He was also the district's Santa Claus, and always told the joke about getting stuck in Staudinger's chimney. The girls' first teacher was Mrs. Delia Fitch, and they continued on at Marianne until finishing their grade nine. When Jack first went to school he gave some trouble to the girls, who were told to make sure he got to school. They went in single file in the winter time. Betty went first, then Jack, and Daisy followed behind. Betty broke the trail, Jack followed in her footsteps, and should he decide to turn back, he always had Daisy to contend with.

The girls then went to work at Eckville hospital, and Jack stayed on the farm. Horses were replaced by a tractor. Jack then married Lois Wakey, and we moved into Sylvan Lake to make our home.

Elizabeth Anne (Betty) married Ragnar Johanson of the Bentley district, farming there for 20 some years and presently living at Salmon Arm, British Columbia.

Daisy Winnifred married Sylvester Eichorn of Stettler. She has worked at the Stettler hospital for many years.

Jack and his family still farm at the home place.

Mr. Britton passed away suddenly in May, 1965, at 74 years of age. I am still residing in our house at Sylvan Lake.

NOTE — We feel Tom should be remembered for his love of music and song, his jovial personality, and for always being a good neighbor.

JACK AND LOIS BRITTON — S.E. 22-38-2-5 — by Lois Britton

In the spring of 1956, Jack Britton married me, Lois, daughter of Emma and Ormand Wakey. I was born at Salem, Oregon, United States, and have two brothers, Don and Bob, both of Red Deer. I was not used to the farm, so it took patience and perseverance on the part of the hard-working Britton family. I learned to boil water, burn pork chops, drive a tractor, throw bales, to be isolated in the winter, use a coal and wood stove, and many other things too numerous to mention. This was all very different for me and perhaps challenging.

In the early 1960's, overhead telephones were installed by the farmers of Marianne, and also for some of us, the natural gas was installed. We were now no longer completely isolated. My mother, Emma Wakey, lived near us on our farmstead from 1960 until her passing in the spring of 1975. Jack and I raised three children, **Deborah**, **Bryon**, and **Dale**. All three graduated from the Sylvan Lake high school. Their transportation was the



Jack Britton family. Lois, Debbie, Jack, Dale and Bryon — 1974.

big yellow school bus. There were no horse and buggy days for this generation.

Deborah married Robert Rhodes of Markerville in the summer of 1975. Robert is employed with Roz-Con Construction, apprenticing as a plumber. Deborah is employed with the Safeway Store, Red Deer. They reside in Red Deer.

Dale graduated in May of this year, 1976, and is at present employed by Flint Engineering and Construction.

The family circle was sorrowfully broken when our oldest son, Bryon passed away in January, 1976. He is gone but not forgotten.

What's the use of living
Only to die once more
Will I ever again enjoy
All the things I had before.

It's not easy
To go to the city.
I'm running out of reasons
To try and live again.

I used to be the first one
To say my life was fine
But it was so simple then
Now I'm running out of time.

If I can hang on a little while
Try to see what I've got
But it's been such a hard hard trial
But I think I've learned a lot.

When it's finally over
No matter how it will go
Can I say I won the game
Or will I ever know.

Can I say I brought some light
To at least one who wouldn't see
Did I try and lighten the load
Of those not as lucky as me

Bryon Britton

DONALD AND LILLIAN BROWNLEE — N.W. 22-38-2-5

Don and Lil Brownlee were both born near Delburne, Alberta where they both received their education. From there, Don entered the forces in December of 1940, under Marcel Lambert. He was in command of a tank in 14 Army Tank Battalion, Calgary Regiment. At this time, Lil went into war work. She used part of her skill in wiring aeroplanes and making fuses. Don went overseas early in the war. He took part in the Dieppe raid, where he was wounded and taken prisoner. He spent the next three years in a prison camp in Germany. Lil worked her way to eastern Canada in war work, starting in Calgary, then Edmonton, Fort William, and on to Montreal where they were married on June 27, 1945. They then went home to Delburne where they farmed until the death of Lil's mother, Annie (Slack) Jamieson. They inherited her farm in the Marianne district, and so moved there to start a new part of their life. These were difficult times for them, due to crop failures, from early frost, late harvest, and hail. While they would have preferred to remain on this farm where they had established wind breaks and made many other plans for improvement, it

was not financially feasible to do so. At this point, Don accepted an offer to work as a mechanic for Guthrie McLaren Drilling Company. This took them to many points in the near and far north. While they were in High Level, Lil had a green house and grew some of the plants she so enjoyed. On May 24, 1972, Lil passed away suddenly.

Don continued with the same company but as purchasing agent, so he no longer goes out of Edmonton. In January of 1975, Don married Mrs. Margaret Perry. She died in June, 1975. Don is still with the same company, and lives in Edmonton.

HARRY BUCKLEY — by R. J. Buckley NW 18-38-1-5

During the first decade of the twentieth century, countless young men from the United Kingdom crossed the Atlantic to seek their fortune in the New World, especially western Canada. Such a one was Harry Buckley, who in March, 1904, at the ripe age of seventeen left his home for the first time to come to Manitoba to find out what life in the west was like. Having attended elementary schools in Enniskerry and Bray in the County Wicklow, Ireland, followed by the Kingstown Grammar and Dublin High schools, his formal education was behind him and ahead the tough school of life in a pioneer country.

After about two years in Manitoba, Harry was joined by his father, John Charles Buckley, who had come out to Canada to see how his son was faring and to view this "land of promise" as reported by immigration agents. Father and son then returned to Ireland. In the following spring the entire Buckley family of nine emigrated to Canada, settling in the prairie country just north of Gleichen. Here Harry farmed for twenty-five years.

In 1920, Harry returned to Ireland for a visit. While there, he married Eileen Eleanor Taylor and returned to Canada the following year with his bride. Eileen joined him in building up a wonderful home on the place he was farming. Two sons were born, **Richard John**, in 1921 and **Ronald Francis** in 1925.

In the very early thirties, the Buckleys moved from the dry country to Sylvan Lake to a farm known as the "Woodlands", which was owned by Mrs. Jones and her sister Mrs. Sansbury, who were then living in Lacombe. The house on this farm was a landmark, being some sixty feet long, thirty feet wide at the north end but only twelve at the southern end. It was a frame and log building which housed millions of horrid bed bugs. This fact did not go down too well with Mother who was a very houseproud woman. Arrangements were made with Mrs. Jones for the erection of a new house, which still stands having been occupied by ourselves, Mr. and Mrs. Leitch, and is presently owned by Phil Hilman.

My brother Ron and myself were introduced to rural school life, a thing I never relished, having come from a very large school complex. Being one of the few English speaking families in the district, it seemed to be our lot to have teachers boarding with us. Our first teacher was a Mrs. Bystrom whom I remember as being a dear. She used to ride a very plump pony some six miles each day. Janitor work was done by students, myself included, at the big sum of five dollars per month which included the scrubbing and oiling of the floor once monthly. We had others boarding with us too. Miss. Winnie Carter who

came from Botha and later left when she married Glen W. Paul, the teacher from Kuusamo. Miss. Fraser followed and then Mrs. Morris who is at Alix, now retired. There was a Miss. Ellis who I believe boarded with Mrs. Walker.

In 1939 father received word that an offer had been made on the place and he would of course be given first chance to purchase it. He felt that only one quarter-section would not be enough to support us, so, with the help of Mr. Hilman, sought land about, but there was none to be had. In 1939, prior to the war, Father moved to Alix. It was here that he really went ahead in his farming activities, raising pure-bred Shorthorns and Lacombe hogs.

Mother had a beautiful garden and orchard here with some eighty different varieties of apple and crab apple trees. Mother was busy in Imperial Order Daughters of Empire work and was noted for her many quilts which she made for Korean relief work. She was an ardent member of the horticultural club and was on the provincial garden judges' team. She was twice matron of the Electa Chapter of the Eastern Star. Mother passed away on March 1, 1970.

Dad was with Ron and his family for a while and then was with me here in Red Deer. He spent his time in my garden and writing up the history of his family from 1586 till the present. At the age of 87 he made a trip to New Zealand. After his return, he had a bad fall and broke his hip. Spending a lot of time in the Richard Parsons Auxiliary, Hospital, he recovered and is presently residing in the West Park Nursing Home. He is now in his 91st year. His health is good, although he is very deaf and his sight is not the best.

My brother Ron is in Grand Prairie where he and his family have a very comfortable home. He is employed by the provincial government. He has two boys and three girls. The older ones are all married and he of course is now a granddad.

After spending some five years in the Army, I went into funeral directing, a profession I enjoyed but was forced to leave due to allergies to the embalming fluids. I then went to Lacombe where I spent seventeen years in the hardware business, leaving it to go to work for the government in the capacity of clerk for the Alberta Liquor Control Board. I am now in my twentieth year with them, and am looking forward to retirement. I have my own home in Red Deer, although I am still single. My hobbies are gardening and showing my Great Dane dog.

Sylvan Lake and especially Marianne District hold many treasured memories for us all. Neighbors were of a real golden quality and have been thought of many times. We remember with gratitude the families of Hilman, Holmgren, Cameron, Langton, and many others.

CURRIE FAMILY

Jim, Darlene and their two children; **Beth** and **Doug** moved here from Calgary in July of 1971. They live on the Charlie Johnson acreage in the centre of the Marianne district. It is a welcome change from living in the city. Jim has his own business, the Trophy Taxidermy and Guide Service. Darlene is a supervisor at Alberta Government Telephones in Red Deer. Beth and Doug attend grades four and three at Sylvan Lake School.



Jim Currie family.

THEODORE HOWARD DALE

Ted H. Dale was born in Calgary, Alberta, on May 22, 1919, the son of Theodore and Sophia (Johnson) Dale. His father was born in Norway and his mother in the United States. On November 6th, 1943, he married Evelyn Holman of Kingston-on-Thames, England. They have three children: **Bonnie Diane**, **Dennis Theodore** and **Ronald Howard**.

Mr. Dale attended elementary school in Calgary and Marianne, Alberta, and obtained his higher education in Edmonton, Alberta. In 1949 he received his Advertising Course diploma from International Correspondence Schools in Scranton, Pennsylvania, 1961, F.R.I. degree in real estate at the University of Alberta and one extra year of appraisal at the University of Alberta.

Mr. Dale worked in the service department of Healy Motors, Edmonton, Alberta from 1941-42; service department, Aircraft Repair, Edmonton, Alberta from 1942-44; senior motor mechanic, United States Army, Anchorage, Alaska from 1944-45; employed with Canadian Social Creditor Magazine, Edmonton from 1945-46; account executive; Hamly Press, Edmonton from 1946-48; advertising representative, Edmonton Bulletin, Edmonton from 1948-49. In 1949, with a partner, Mr. Dale started his own company, "The Oil Industry News". A few months later, Mr. Dale bought out the partner and continued to publish the magazine for another five years under the name, "Canadian Oil Journal". In 1955 he published "The Safety Counselor" in co-operation with the Alberta Safety Council; 1957-63, branch manager, Kellough Realty Limited; 1963-65 in commercial and industrial department of Imperial Real Estate, Edmonton, and in 1965 Mr. Dale opened T. H. Dale Realty Limited. He is a past director of British Petroleum Limited (Calgary).

Mr. Dale was 1968 local chapter president of the Canadian Institute of Realtors; director, Edmonton Real Estate Board; chairman, Membership Committee of Edmonton Real Estate Boards; member, Alberta Association of Real Estate Boards; member, Canadian Association of Real Estate Board; member, International Real Estate Federation; past chairman, Salesman Division of the Edmonton Real Estate Board; and, past chairman of most of the committees for the Edmonton Real Estate Board.



Ted Dale.

Also active in the community, Mr. Dale is a past member of the Junior Chamber of Commerce, and has been a canvasser for the United Appeal.

Mr. Dale has received several awards from Imperial Real Estate Limited for gross production and awards from the Edmonton Real Estate Board. He has organized advertising promotion programs for the Edmonton Real Estate Board which were presented on CFRN-TV in 1959. Mr. Dale has written many advertising articles for the Edmonton Real Estate Board and has published various articles and publications while in charge of "Western Publications Limited" and he started the "Edmonton Tourist Guide Book" (1946-48).

Mr. Dale has travelled extensively to many parts of the world including a trip around the world in 1970. His hobbies are skiing, golf, weight lifting and exercise, hunting, fishing, travelling, dancing and music.

In December of 1971, Mr. Dale and his wife moved to Kelowna, British Columbia where he is semi-retired presently residing at 12 Bello Road.

RECOLLECTIONS — by T. H. Dale

I found myself a member of the Marianne District at the age of ten due to unfortunate family circumstances.

Some of my earlier recollections are the school years: the long walk to Marianne; studying hard to keep ahead of Hedvi Staudinger (and I didn't always do so); the school plays and concerts; the summer picnics and sports days. I can remember how good ice cream used to taste in those days and how I could eat six cones, then look for more.

Those long winter nights also come to mind and the comfort that came from sitting next to the roaring stove. It was on nights like these that radio reception was at its best, and it was my uncle Charlie's favourite past-time to

see what new and distant stations he could bring in from the battery-powered set.

I also remembered the night I looked outside as I was going to bed and the snow was "all pink". We soon discovered that the chimney was on fire. Needless to say, this stirred up the household pretty good! With the help of the "Wawanesa fire extinguisher" my uncle was able to put it out.

The first signs of spring were always joyous times — a time to forget the long, cold and hard winter and a time to look forward to the carefree days of summer.

In the days when I was still too young to work in the fields, one of my "chores" (when I wasn't in school) was to take coffee to my uncles in the field. This was usually a pleasant task (providing I didn't have to walk too far) and sometimes there would be "goodies" left over to compensate for my efforts (my grandmother and aunt were very good cooks). I remember also the day I found an Indian arrowhead in the field. This was a delightful additional reward.

The young people getting together at the neighbors were memorable times. I particularly remember well the times we used to visit the home of Mr. and Mrs. Niel Leitch. They and their daughter, Christine, made us very welcome, and it was there that I learned to play "monopoly" and "pick-up-sticks" — sometimes till 2:00 A.M.

I have many fond memories of a remarkable dog named "Trixie", and it was a sad day when she died. With a minimum amount of training, this dog would perform tricks that were truly amazing (at least they appeared so to me). Among the feats my uncle had taught her were: to bring in firewood, jump into a high wagon box, jump into the saddle and ride with him (for short distances), go upstairs and wake up whoever was sleeping, sit in a chair and catch pancakes (and never miss). There were two things she couldn't stand (despite her intelligence) one was a porcupine and the other was a skunk. It goes without saying that these got her into a lot of trouble. Many a time we had to pull quills from her swollen mouth. One of her "crowning achievements" was when she and one of her grown pups literally pulled a shunk in half. Needless to say, she and her pup were not too popular around the house for a while!

There are other recollections that stand out in my mind, such as: the enjoyment of friends throughout the years, playing ball on the beach at Sylvan Lake and in Marianne, and earning enough money for my first suit.

Harvest time was always an enjoyable time, even though a lot of hard work was involved. I shall always remember my first job on a threshing crew. I had neither the stamina or the skill for such an ordeal at that time. I can remember wrist bands on both wrists, blisters on nearly every finger and in the morning (which always came too soon) I would have difficulty holding my fork to eat breakfast. However, the second and third year that I "went threshing" were a different story. I could keep up with the best of them and then some!

The Marianne district seemed to have more than its share of severe storms. On my uncle's farm alone there were numerous lightning strikes. One of the better work horses was killed and one side was literally "cooked". A granary by the barn was struck. The radio aerial was hit and burned up plus two windows were broken and a front

wall scorched. Several trees behind the barn were hit at various times. My most vivid recollection is when I was struck! While I was working for a neighbor, some stock had gone into a grain field. I chased them out and was in the process of repairing the fence when I was struck down (presumably through the fence). The feeling is difficult to describe — something like being picked up by a big giant, shaken violently and thrown to the ground. I was numb but I didn't lose consciousness. The wind was knocked out of me and it was a while before I could stagger to my feet. I noticed later that I had blisters on both feet, one for each nail in my shoes!

Since leaving the Marianne District I have often returned for a visit. I don't always recognize the name on the mail box anymore and there are more unfamiliar faces than there used to be. The countryside, though, hasn't changed all that much and the memories remain fresh in fact, at times "it seems like only yesterday".

EDWIN DINGMAN — N.E. 24-38-2-5 — by Emma Holbrook

The Dingman family arrived in Sylvan Lake by train one sunny May day in 1918. Father, Edwin Dingman, came out to Alberta the fall before, locating our farm in the Marianne district which we were to live on for the next 20-25 years. The family consisted of our father, our mother Cora, and **James, Florence**, myself **Emma, Ida**, an older married sister **Mabel** in Washington, and an older brother **Clifford** in army training in Tacoma, Washington.

Dad bought the farm from Alex Kinnunen Senior, whose son Alex, lived on the place and remained with us until he moved to his land south-west of us. When we got off the train at Sylvan Lake, Elmer and Charlie Johnson and Alex Kinnunen were there to meet us, and hauled our possessions home in wagons. Before we reached the farm the wagons were axle-deep in mud, and water was up to the horses' bellies. One of Alex's white team was called May. She was balky. A short distance from home she balked, and no amount of slapping and "giddups" would change her mind. James came back to see why we had not got home. He tried unsuccessfully to lead her, so we just had to sit it out, and after a while she started up the hill. Until Dad got horses of our own, May was borrowed numerous times. I was eight years old, and often drove gentle May between Alex's place and ours.

Virgin land, bountiful fishing, and wild game had attracted Dad to our new farm. The family often went to the lake to swim, fish and picnic. Mom and Dad were good swimmers, so I could spend a whole day there. We always had fish to take home. There were lots of deer in the bush, but these were never bothered. Very little land was broken on Dad's farm. It was mostly covered with sky-high poplars, muskeg and spruce so thick one could hardly walk through them. The lane from our buildings led down through them and not much wonder it was muddy, as the sun never shone on it. The branches overlapped like a canopy. In the spring several culverts washed out.

The previous winter in Idaho, Dad and James worked in a lumber camp. That was the year of the flu epidemic. Everyone in camp was sick except my Dad and an older woman. They would go from house to house trying to make the people as comfortable as possible. The only



Edwin Dingman — last days in Marianne.

medicine was a bottle of whisky, which was measured out very carefully. Mother and James were two of the critical ones. I remember Dad telling Mother that James would not last the night, and Mom got up from bed, bundled in a blanket, and sat by James. No doctor was to be had. Maybe, Mom sitting by James that night gave him the will to live, as he came through it, but many didn't. The dead were taken to a building near the mill to await burial.

It was May on the new farm, and several months of school were left at Marianne. Miss Laycock was the teacher. The school had a huge furnace, and I was to learn why the next winter. It wasn't large enough most of the time, even though we were wearing long fleece-lined underwear with flannelette bloomers over that, plus long-sleeved dresses, sweaters and long heavy stockings. It took until lunch time to warm ourselves and our frozen lunches. Mom had brought a red wool scarf from Minnesota which was about two yards long. It was now my turn to wear it, wrapped around my head low over my cap, around my neck, and ending up tied behind. I could pull a layer down and one up over my nose. When it frosted up it wasn't so nice. The winters seemed so long and cold. Raymond Hilman drove a team of horses and a sleigh to school, so I got a ride from their place to school. When the weather was too bad, Mom or one of my brothers would drive me, and pick up children on the way.



Cora Dingman — 1930's.

Miss Laycock put me in grade one that first day at school. Everyone laughed at me when I said zee instead of zed, but teacher rescued me by explaining it was the American way. I returned the laughs when children came to school who couldn't speak or understand English. Violet Kuores and Marida Hansen were my classmates.

My sister Florence's birthday was May 30, so Mother thought a good way for her and James to get acquainted with the young people was to have a party. It had been a nice sunny day, and after supper the living-room began to fill up with young folks. Later on someone announced that it was snowing. Yes, snowing it was, and continued for the next couple days. Surrounded by trees, the folks didn't realize how deep the snow was, but I did, plowing snow up to my bottom on Monday morning, going across the fields to Johnsons. The snow had completely covered their machine shed. Selma Johnson always waited for me. She was older than me, and kind of looked out for me. That morning Elmer drove us to school. When all this snow melted, water was across the road in many places, so either Florence or James took me to school on horseback. We pulled our feet up as high as we could to keep from getting wet.

How well I remember the Christmas concerts. We practiced so hard for weeks. There was usually a musical drill. The teacher would play the organ, and the older girls dressed in cheesecloth dresses trimmed with tinsel and pulled over our new Christmas dresses, went through the drills and dialogues. We were always scared silly we would forget our parts. Oh the excitement when someone would come in from outside and holler at the teacher that they had just heard Santa's sleigh bells, and in would bound Santa, wanting to know if we had been good. He then gave us our gift from the tree and a bag of candy and nuts with an apple and just maybe an orange in it. The mothers then served lunch and a couple of men would carry a wash boiler of hot coffee in, that had been boiled on a stove outside. Nobody ever got burned. The trip home in the sleigh with the cold horses didn't take long to the tune of sleigh bells. Then, very tired, we went to bed to get warmed up and have a good sleep.

I shall never forget the goodness of the Johnson family before Ida started school. These good people always asked me into their warm kitchen to wait for Selma to go to school. In the summer when the boys were working on the south quarter, they would put me up on one of their horses, and give me a ride as far as they went. I loved Selma's father. He always had time to talk to me. He often walked across the field to visit with my dad too.

Sometime in the late twenties, the Unity hall was built. James and Marida and I attended a lot of dances in that hall, which was built on the Riecki farm from donations and volunteer work. In later years, it was moved to Sylvan Lake, and used as a school.

Dan Weber, the D. B. Learned's, and the Medearis family, were all Americans, and we visited with them back and forth. Our nearest neighbors, Mrs. August Johnson and Mrs. Pass, could not speak English, so Mother didn't have many lady friends. The Pass and Johnsons girls came over often for much appreciated visits. Mom soon learned to put the coffee pot on for visitors. In the States we were used to having dinner and supper, and no lunches in between.

Dan Weber, a big bachelor, always came early for supper, and stayed late in the evening, telling wonderful stories, and we children listening. He had trapped for a living in the early days and showed us a tree along our driveway that a bear had climbed one time. The tree grew and the imprints of his claws had grown too, so in our imaginative minds Ida and I thought it sure must have been a big bear. It was kind of scary. Ida and I roamed through the woods by the hour, just exploring. It was full of rabbits and partridges, and we tried to count them. Long-stemmed violets and marsh marigolds grew along the creek, and shooting stars and lady slippers near the tracks where it was drier, so we always had jars of flowers everywhere. Along the tracks, raspberries grew taller than our heads. We picked the fruit in season. Mother and Florence would go out in the forenoon, before it got hot. These pails of berries were picked over in the afternoon and canned. Nearly always the Pass girls or Selma would be picking too, so it was a pleasant way to spend a few hours. The first blueberries I picked were on the way home from school, and brought home in my lunch pail. We were not allowed to eat them until Alex identified them. After that we picked pails and pails of them and Mother canned them. Saskatoons and rhubarb were good in winter too. Dad dug some of the wild raspberry canes and planted them in our garden where they produced better than ever. Most of all we missed the apples we had in the States.

Dad was six feet one or two inches tall. He weighed about 175 pounds. If it was virgin soil he wanted, he had gotten acres of it. Now it had to be cleared. Hundreds of trees to cut by axe, and with them gallons of sweat. The C.P.R. ran through our property and it was a continual worry that a gate should be left open, allowing stock on the tracks. The crew were very good, and if they saw something on the tracks in time, they would slow down. A couple of quick toots and some of us were already on the run. We lost a few head of cattle and one horse that I remember. In those days people travelled by wagon or horseback and quite often would go through the farm yards. There was a wagon trail west through the Kaila and Pass farms, across the road and through our yard, through to our west gate and on to Benalto. The Indians often came, followed by a couple of dogs, on their way to Rocky Mountain House. Sometimes the gates were not closed tightly, and the cattle would get out on the tracks again.

Dad and James found time to cut brush and trees along our lane. The wind and the sun could dry up the trail now. The two creeks had bridges over them now, and every summer a little more work would be done until it was a fair trail, even in wet weather. By the second spring, Dad and James had a few more acres ready for green feed. We have snaps of Dad standing up to his shoulders in it. These were sent back to the folks in the States, who thought we were at the north pole with the Indians and Eskimoes.

Ida was now old enough to go to school, and we were given a horse to ride, which saved those long cold walks.

Florence was now married to Emil Schill, and they were living in Benalto with their two sons Charlie, who was later accidently killed, and George. They lived there for some years and later in Sylvan Lake.

After Clifford was released from the army, and came home, Dad decided we needed more land, so he rented a quarter from Dan Weber, two miles north of us. The men would leave early in the morning with their lunches and horse feed, and return late at night. Disaster hit when our barn caught fire early one forenoon. Dad got the calves out, and luckily Florence was there that day, and got the horses out. Ida still remembers the terrible sight of cats jumping from the loft with their fur on fire. Neighbors soon saw the smoke and came to help. It was very hot weather, so the burning shingles set fires all around the yard. The paint on the house was even scorched, but luckily we saved it.

We had rains that lasted several weeks, when the crops should have been planted, or in the fall when the crop was ready to harvest I can remember Dad standing on the back porch, hands clasped behind his back, looking up at the skies pouring down rain, and saying that if he had the money, he would get out of this damned country.

James had his eye on Marida Hansen, going to visit her on Joe, his saddle horse. Joe wasn't fast enough for the tracks, but he could sure cover the miles in a hurry. He was a high-strung nervous horse, and we girls were not allowed near him for the first year or so, but it wasn't long and I was sneaking Joe out of the barn to get the cows.

Mother, like all the other women, helped with the milking, feeding calves, working in the garden, doing huge family washes on the board. All our home-sewn clothes were starched and ironed with the old flat-iron, heated on the hot stove. This was done on bread-baking day. I can smell and taste that warm bread yet. What a treat to come home from school and see all those loaves and buns on the kitchen table to cool. Warm bread, home-churned butter and lots of honey or syrup was a real treat. Mother was a crack shot with a gun of any kind. She set hens soon as they began clucking. She had dozens of little chicks. The hawks, owls, crows and magpies had never been bothered, so there were lots of them. She would hear the chickens squawking, and would grab the gun, and with one shot she had the culprit. The coyotes also came right into our yard. She got many of these pests shooting from the back porch into the barn yard. If Dad happened to be in, he would take the gun, but his eyes were not good, so would hand the gun back to Corie. Mom would point the gun up towards the sky where the hawk was circling, pull the trigger, and the hawk would fall. The owls would come at night, and try to pick the chicks out of the coop. These were shot also. Today these birds are protected, but back then, when they were too numerous, they were a problem, and had to be shot. Mother could also handle horses. She loved company and enjoyed visiting neighbors. The years slipped away. Mother hadn't been feeling well and Dr. Parsons Senior said she would have to have an operation. Emil had a car, and took her into Red Deer. This was November. We didn't see Mom all the time she was away. James went to Red Deer on horseback, and Dad went once with Emil and Florence. She got home again a day or two before Christmas. What an awful Christmas it would have been for Ida and I, had she not got home then. Mom wasn't supposed to do the heavy work she had been doing, after her illness. I stayed home while she

was away, getting Ida off to school, and doing the housework. I had watched Mom set bread the night before, covering it good and putting it behind the heater. Dad got up one night to put another block in the heater, and stepped in my bread pan. What a job washing the dough out of the dish cloths and tablecloth I had covered it with. Mother was often called on to act as midwife, so Ida and I were used to getting along.

Sometime along the way, Clifford and Lillian Pass were married and lived on the Shacklock place. Their first baby was a girl. It passed away at two months and was buried in the Kuusamo cemetery. They had two little boys after this. Stories were coming to us about homestead land in the Peace River country. Clifford set out to see. He didn't stay long in the Peace, but went further west into British Columbia and filed on a quarter near Fort St. John. Lillie and the boys went up later. They were truly pioneers in the new country. They worked hard and acquired more land. Two more children were added to their family, a little girl named Lillian, and a boy called Terry. Clifford passed away four years ago. Lillian still lives in Fort St. John. Her family all live near-by and are doing well.

I never went back to school after mother got home from the hospital. I went to work as a hired girl in Benalto and later in Red Deer, where I was up until the time I got married to Perry Holbrook, and lived in Saunders Creek for some time, then in Calgary before we moved to Sylvan Lake. We have three boys and two girls. Perry has passed away.

James and Marida got married, and so Ida and mother lived together. Mother hadn't seen her older daughter since we left Washington, so she decided she would like to visit her. Dad went down later in 1929. They both went to Tacoma to visit Dad's only sister. While there, Dad saw a piece of property he liked, so he bought it and they decided to stay in Tacoma. Ida and I were to go down in the spring. This never happened, as Dad took a stroke and died before James got there. They brought him home for burial in the Benalto cemetery. After all those years there was no place like Alberta. Ida and Mom lived together on the Hansen farm and James farmed this and the farm in the spruce. Mom went back to Minnesota to visit her mother. After a couple of years, she returned and married John Rathwell and went to live on his farm in Wood Lake. James and Marida had a sale and moved back to Washington, where they lived up to James' tragic death beneath a tractor. He was buried on mother's birthday. Marida and their three sons still live in the Deer Park district. Mother and my stepfather came to Sylvan Lake to live. Mother's health was not good before she passed away in 1957.

ANDREW AND MARY DORAN

Johanna Mary Doran, daughter of an early homesteader, Peter Bertheuson, was born at Burnt Lake, September 2, 1896. Her parents had settled on the land in Burnt Lake, now occupied by Earl Grimson. It was only a year or so before the Bertheuson's decided to move on, as the brushing proved difficult. They found land on S.E. 14-38-2-5. Here Johanna's first school days were enjoyed at Kuusamo, then later Evarts school proved to be closer.

When Johanna was eighteen years old, she went to Red Deer to take her High School, boarding with



Mr. and Mrs. Andy Doran.

someone when away from home. She took grades ten and eleven there, earning a second-class teaching certificate. Johanna found when applying for a school, she got better results using Mary as her given name than Johanna, which sounded foreign to some school boards. Mary taught school for six years, and then completed grade 12 when sister Petra took her high school. It is thought that Diamond Valley was Mary's first teaching position, which was followed by jobs at St. Paul, Delbourne, Irricana and Acme. In 1927 Mary enjoyed a visit to relatives in Chicago, Illinois, and North Dakota.

The highlight of Mary's teaching career came when applying for a teaching position at Manyberries where Andrew (Andy) Doran was a member of the board for the Ranchville School district, acting as Secretary. Love bloomed, and wedding bells rang in 1930. A daughter **Delores** was born the following year, and a son followed in February, 1933. It was sixty miles from Medicine Hat during a blizzard. A doctor from Manyberries, finally came to Mary's aid, but it was too late to save the little boy.

After Mary's father passed away in 1936, the Doran's moved to the Bertheuson homestead in the Marianne district. Delores was six years old at the time. Mary continued teaching because of the shortage of teachers during war-time. Schools she taught at this time were New Centerville, Diamond Valley, Marianne and Rocky Mountain House. Mary had to struggle against the idea that the older girl in a family should stay at home to help the younger ones. She, however, was very determined to receive her education, which she did attain, and many a person yet today can remember her in the class-room.

Mary often remembered settlers stopping at her parent's place and camping in their yard. One souvenir of those days, was the Kentucky Blue Grass growing around the house on their homestead. The seed had no doubt been shaken from some southerner's wagon. She remembered having to look for the cows, which was no

easy job, as it was so wooded that you could not see them. She would climb a large spruce tree and from here she could see some distance away.

Andy farmed in the Marianne district for many years, using horses. I do not recall him having a car, but always drove a team of horses, arriving at all the functions in the district. He was active in all the community affairs, and served on the school board for many years, being secretary as early as 1939 and for some time after. The Doran's finally decided to purchase the Frank Jenkins' house, near Benalto, and to move it to their land. This was done, but was never really enjoyed for too long. Delores married in 1955, leaving for the Peace River area. It was about this time that Mary was found to have a severe case of diabetes. Mary was teaching at Rocky Mountain House at the time, and it was in 1956 when she passed away suddenly at her sister Petra's home in Red Deer. This was sad, as finally after such a full life of hard work, Mary was to have enjoyed retirement the following year. The large house was very lonesome for Andy now, also his health failed after Mary's death. He spent some little time in a Senior Citizen's home near Peace River before he passed away.

HANK EDMUNDS S.E. 17-38-1-5

Hank and Myrna moved to the Sylvan Lake area in May of 1973, having purchased the Hugo Horlacher farm. Hank was born in Swan River, Manitoba, and Myrna in Bashaw, Alberta. They met at Red Deer where they were both working at the time and married in February, 1961. They moved to Calgary where Hank was in the excavating business until they moved to the Sylvan Lake district. They tried milking cows but gave it up in the fall of 1975, sold the farm land to neighbor Roy Grutter and kept twenty-two acres for themselves. Hank is back in the excavating business again. They also have had the Rural Mail Route for Sylvan Lake since October 1974. They have three children: **Donald**, born in May, 1962; **Robert**, born in February, 1965; and **Laurie**, born in December, 1966. They all attend Sylvan Lake School.

SIMON HENRY FALER

NE 17-38-1-5

Simon Henry Faler is described by his daughter, Glenn, as a man who didn't stay too long in one place. He and his wife Lizzie had lived in several parts of Alberta before living in the Marianne district. There were four children: **William, Florence, Glenn May and David Lee**. William and Florence were through grade eight so they never attended Marianne school but Glenn was in grade eight and David was younger when they went there for the year 1922-23. They continued to live in the district after the children began attending school at Sylvan Lake. In the next few years the family lived for a time on the Prevo place east of Sylvan Lake and on Uncle Wash Petro's place on the western edge of town. It was there that Aileen Hilman lived with them while she and Glenn went to the Sylvan Lake High School together. They have remained fast friends.

In 1927, the Falers moved to Hanna for one year. Leaving there on May 17, 1928, they reached Red Bluff, California, on June 12. Motor vehicles were in use but travel was not what it is today.

None of the Falers ever returned to Canada to live. As well as the parents, William and Florence have

passed on. David lives in Oregon. Glenn May Faler was married to Chris Edward Rhoades at Klamath Falls, Oregon, on November 14, 1929. Living on a ranch near Red Bluff, they raised a family of three sons and four daughters. While her husband, Chris, looked after the sheep ranching, Glenn kept busy as a seamstress besides looking after her family. When the family had grown, the Rhoades sold the ranch and lived for awhile in Chico, California, and in Lake Havasu City, Arizona, before settling in Woodland, California. Happily retired, their doors are always open to their many friends and their family, which includes 48 grandchildren. They lost one son in an automobile accident but his wife and two children are among those who remain.

Members of the Hilman and Staudinger families have kept in touch with Glenn Faler Rhoades and her family.

DELORES AND BOB GARDNER

Delores was born in 1931, only daughter of Mary and Andy Doran. Delores took her elementary schooling at Marianne, and followed on in her mother's footsteps to take teacher training. Delores had an adventurous nature, and soon wandered as far as the Peace River town, where she taught for several years. It was here that she met Robert (Bob) Gardner and he persuaded her to stay in the "Mighty Peace" area at Nampa, and marry him.

It was here that Bob Gardner was engaged in a homesteading endeavor, and with a caterpillar tractor worked hard at clearing his homestead, as well as working for other farmers in the area. The Gardners now live on nearly the edge of populated country to the east of Nampa. Five children blessed their home: **Linda, Shelly, Penny, Joan and Ken.**

Delores still spends the occasional day in the classroom, favoring High School. She also clerks in a local store at Nampa, as well as keeping down the ranch at home, where Bob farms extensively.

EDWARD GRUTTER — by Mrs. H. Grutter NE 17-38-15

Farming, the love for the land and the wide open spaces were always our basic aims when we left Europe for the so-called "Promised Land" named Canada. In 1929 my husband, Edward Grutter, and I, Hildegard Catherina Maria, started out from two different countries. My husband left Switzerland and I, an Austrian, came from Vienna.

With our city life behind us and heading for the chosen land, which was to become our new homeland, my husband landed in Canada first and met up with an old farmer, a bachelor, who showed him how to make a rather modest, honest living from a quarter-section of prairie land and to be content with taking it easy. After this experience, my husband, who did not believe that this kind of life was any guarantee for a decent standard of living according to his hopes and dreams of farm life in the west of Canada, travelled on until he reached the "Far West" of British Columbia Vancouver Island, Shawnigan Lake in particular. Here he happened to come upon a partly Swiss-oriented dairy farm occupied and operated by a German widow and her son, who supplied a nearby English school for boys with dairy

products. Finding this new job and set-up more to his liking, my husband stayed on. He also was more appreciated there on account of his already fairly good practical knowledge of dairying through his parents, business and farming in Switzerland. But still, it was a step into different activities we were not too familiar with.

It was there that my husband and I met. Pursuing the same interests and wanting to get established in farming on our own, we got married in Victoria, British Columbia, where we made our plans to go in for fruit farming first of all, tempted by the nice mild climate of British Columbia. Now, we thought, we had adopted a more interesting field of "working together" for a more prosperous future and better standard of living by the western ideas which we felt sympathetic to.

A nice small orchard near Trail, British Columbia, "Fruitvale", was the place we were to live on. We liked this comparatively little farm, the variety of fruit trees we owned now and the pleasant wooded area we were surrounded by. Hoping we would make a go of it, we were prepared to work hard again after investing all our savings. But while time went on, it proved that the economical side of this undertaking in fruit farming was not to be as expected, since the depression set in, which made it difficult to be successful in any line of business at that time. Our first son, **Edward James Roy** was born during this time. With the future more or less uncertain, we decided to go back to Europe again. Switzerland still always seemed to be financially on a sounder basis.

It was in Switzerland where our daughter **Judith Ericka** was born; it was springtime and it meant quite an event for us again; now, our baby boy had a little sister to grow up with. But oh! could it have been that after three and a half years in Europe we suddenly realized that we missed the freedom of living in Canada a different precious freedom we never felt and could not seem to find in Europe? We knew Canada now, the land that captured our sympathy, so once more we decided to cross the ocean, bidding good-bye to Switzerland again and looking for a permanent home in the west of Canada.

This time it was to be Alberta, the province we heard so many good things about. There it seemed we found what was to be our own land and farm once more Sylvan Lake, a name and place that sounded good and familiar to us and our decision was made. A lake, one-quarter of land, cows, pigs, turkeys, chickens, grain-land all these were what we still longed to own. Could it be that we finally found it in Sylvan Lake? Yes, although the house was old and cold during the rather severe winters which were to follow, we managed to stay on to build up the place and to raise our family there. One more son, **John Gordon**, and one more daughter, **Jean Phyllis**, were born during some very hot summers in 1936 and 1942. But now, the land was ours! This was the best reward for our efforts and we realized we were not alone in our struggle for survival in the land we had chosen. God-given health was with us most of the time, which we treasure most besides our land and gardens which gave us all the food and berries we wanted, shared and sold. It took a lot of energy and enthusiasm again. "Mixed farming" was the thing to do, we were told, and we agreed. New land we had to break for our livestock. Clearing land we did not know much about but with hard work



Mrs. Hildegard M. K. Grutter and Winny, Jean in window.

and a little bit of luck, we carried on while the children were growing up. Although our land was in the Marianne district, the children went to the nearer school at Sylvan Lake. At two-mile daily walk to school was not so easy at first for the grade ones but Mrs. Kinna was a good teacher and there was no excuse for missing school. Our four children grew up healthy and strong, raised mostly on the good milk of our cows and we found that in general, life was pretty good to us after all.

They year of 1956 brought another turning point in our lives. I decided that I wanted to devote the time following to music again, my first and last love. I was now able to buy a home and a piano in Red Deer, send the remaining two children, John and Jean, to school to finish their high school education, and I could keep up teaching music for the enjoyment and benefit of a great number of pupils.

My husband, Edward Grutter, passed away two years ago and the farm was left to my oldest son, Roy, who is not able to farm at present, due to his job as a manager of the Geophysical Services Incorporated in Calgary. Fairlane Farms Limited is the renter of the land at present. Our old farm house became a modern, comfortable home with all the facilities and conveniences of the present times, but the old wooden "out house" is still standing, somewhat bent and forlorn and weatherbeaten. Precious are the memories of the farm and who could ever forget the years of pioneering on the old "homestead"?

I wish you all, you great farming people and owners of more and more of our precious land, the very best for generations to come. I wanted to still be one of you but it was not meant to be.

Summertime at the Lake

When summer returns with blue skies ahead
And seagulls come back to the shores of the Lake,
I love this dear spot in, the heart of Alberta
Where life shows it's sunny sides.

I long to go out on the glittering waters,
To feel nature's gentle embrace
And out of the deep blue shining waters,
I hear this melody.

Refrain

Come along, come along
Let's enjoy life in summer
At the shores of Sylvan Lake
Cheerio, cheerio
Let's forget all the cities
And sing life a joyful song.
If you dance, if you swim,
If it's music you love,
This is the place for you!
So Cherrio, cherrio,
Let's forget all our troubles
At the shores of Sylvan Lake.

Lyrics of a song written and set to music — by
Hildegard K. M. Grutter, May 1948.

NILS GUTTERUD FAMILY — NW 22-38-2-5

Nils Gutterud was born in Audal, Norway, in 1879, February 10. Mrs. Gunhild Olava Gutterud (nee Hallingby) was born on October 24, 1875. They were married in 1898 and lived in Honefors, Norway, until 1907 when Nils left for Union, North Dakota, to live with an uncle by the same name. Mrs. Gutterud came later that same year with their five girls. The oldest was seven years old. Their names were **Ragna, Marie, Thora, Helga and Ronnaug**. Thora, Helga and Ronnaug all died of scarlet fever in December of 1910. Three more children were born here. They were **Olaf**, who died at two years of age, **Thorvald**, and **Helga**. Helga was named after her deceased sister Helga.

The Gutteruds lived at Fairdale on farms until 1912 when they left for Walsh, Alberta, where they took a homestead seven miles from Walsh. Nils went first with seven head of cattle, two horses, and some chickens. He then dug a cellar and when the rest of the family came, they put a tent cover over the cellar, and stayed in it for a few days, when they moved to a bachelor's house until the two-roomed shack was finished. One morning while they were living in the cellar, their mother looked up and



Gutterud family. Back Marie, Ragna, Nels, Gunhild Olava, Helge. Front — Thorvild, Ole, Olga, Ruth.

saw a coyote looking down on them. Two more rooms were built on to this shack later, and in 1917 a new house was built with full basement and four rooms on the first floor. It was never finished upstairs, but the upstairs was used, regardless, for a bedroom. **Ole, Olga and Ruth** were born on the homestead. In 1924, because of so many dry years, the Gutteruds decided to go north and rented the farm on above location from Mrs. W. Slack, later Mrs. Will Jamieson. This farm was four miles from Benalto. The five children went to Kuusamo school. In 1926, tragedy struck the Gutterud family again. Diphtheria claimed the lives of Thorvald, Helga and Ole, all within one week. It was a cold winter, blocked roads, making it very hard for the Gutteruds. They lived on at the Slack farm until 1947, when they moved to Sylvan Lake.

Marie, the oldest girl, remembers when she and her sister Ragna constructed a shelter for the chickens from packing boxes and two-by-fours for roosts. No nails had been used in making this coop, and she laughingly recalls the terrible noise the hens made one night when the whole effort fell down leaving the poor hens in chaos.

Nils Gutterud passed away at Sylvan Lake on March 19, 1955. His wife passed away on June 1, 1965. Olga Holmgren, passed away November 19, 1967, and Ragna on December 29, 1970.

Marie lives in Sylvan Lake. Ruth (Mrs. F. O. Lyons) lives on an acreage two and a half miles from Sylvan Lake. They have four children: Fredrick, married Patsy Broten, has two children, Nola and James; Donald married Candace Orr, and lives in Red Deer; Patricia, Mrs. Lore Daniel, lives in Edmonton and they have one son Eric. Teresa works in Vancouver.

ANDREW EDGAR HALLGREN — S.E. 17-38-1-5

Marie Louise (Augustine) LeRoy was born in Nice, Normandy, France, having two sisters and a brother. In 1914, Augustine, her sister Marie and brother Alexis, came to Canada stopping at Red Deer. Alexis was not impressed with Canada, and returned to France shortly after, but Augustine and her sister remained. Shortly after this Marie went to Victoria, where she became master of many trades. She was a seamstress for some of the larger department stores in Victoria, a music teacher, and was also a singer. It was here in Victoria that Marie met and married Vic Griffaton, who was a dining-room captain for the C.N.R. for 25 years before retiring.

Augustine stayed in Red Deer, where she met and married Edgar (Ed) Hallgren in March, 1916, who was born in 1887 in Red Deer, and was farming east of town at the time. Augustine was working for Mr. Cornett of Red Deer. After the wedding Ed and Augustine moved to Delburne. From this marriage there were ten children, eight of whom were born at Delburne. The two youngest were born at Sylvan Lake.

The eldest was **Isabel**, who later became Mrs. Amlee, living at Sylvan Lake. They have one daughter.

John lives at Richmond, British Columbia, where he studied to become a steam engineer at Simon Fraser College. He has one son.

Lillian Goodall, a widow, lives in Vancouver, having a family of two chosen children, a boy and a girl.

Helen Westerberg also lives in Vancouver, and they have a family of one boy and one girl.

Gordon passed away when he was 34 years old, being asphyxiated in a trailer in 1959.

Mary Elizabeth Hankins lost her husband at 41 years of age, and now lives in Calgary, with a family of two boys and two girls.

Alex lives in Eckville, married with a family of four boys and two girls. One boy is deceased. Alex has a trucking and crude-oil business there.

Victor passed away at Balzac from hydrogen sulphide poisoning while at work, in 1967. He was 37 years old.

Norman was married in 1976. He is living in Red Deer.

Eric also lives in Red Deer. He has one daughter.

Ed Hallgren suffered a stroke when he was 47 years old, and was bedridden for three years, leaving him handicapped in walking thereafter. He passed away in 1961 in March. Augustine passed away in 1969, after they had enjoyed some years of retirement in Red Deer. Ed Hallgren was enlisted in World War I, but did not see action overseas, due to his health. It may also be mentioned that Mr. and Mrs. Hallgren, with the Pettersons and the Smiths, were instrumental in starting the Pentecostal Church in Sylvan Lake.

MR. AND MRS. CECIL HARRISON — N.W. 18-38-1-5

The Cecil Harrison family lived in Marianne for about three years. Besides farming, Mr. Harrison was a cattle buyer, buying for the McKenzie brothers of Lacombe. On leaving the farm, they moved into Sylvan Lake where Mr. Harrison went into the real estate business. He was associated with Dave McCutcheon for many years and remained active in the business as long as he lived. Both Mr. and Mrs. Harrison lived to a good, old age. Mrs. Harrison passed away on April 11, 1963 and Mr. Harrison lived only five weeks longer, passing on May 16, 1963.

There are four daughters, **Edna**, who makes her home at Vancouver, British Columbia, **Gwen**, of Barrhead, Alberta, **Audrey** MacArthur of Sylvan Lake and **Joyce** McKinnon of Penhold.

RONALD HIEBERT Pt. N.W. 19-38-1-5

Ron and Mary Hiebert came to the Marianne district in August of 1967 from Calgary. He grew up at Elm Creek, Manitoba. Mary, the former Mary E. Johnson, hails from Tyndall, Manitoba. They moved west in 1961 when Ron got a job as an insurance investigator. In 1967 he was transferred to Red Deer. The family lived on the acreage owned by Walter Seida, a lovely little spot by the trestle, with spruce trees and a stream running through the yard.

The fall of 1967 was very mild and little if any snow fell until New Year's Eve. That evening was enjoyed at Al and Marj Ljunggren's home. Very few people left the district that evening, due to the bad weather.

Ron and Mary and their children, **David James** and **April Dawn** are sports enthusiasts. During their first winter here, Ron started curling with Al Ljunggren. These two neighbours along with local farmers, Dennis Johanson and Norman Pickering, have taken part in many bonspiels. Mary has played in the Sylvan Lake Ladies fastball and enjoys curling and golf.

David, now fourteen, plays hockey in the Red Deer Moose Bantam A's. His dream is to follow his uncle's footsteps. Mary's brother, (Jimmy Johnson), played hockey in the National Hockey League and also in the World Hockey Leagues for twelve years or so, until his retirement in 1975. At the present time, Ron lives in Sylvan Lake and works for the Canada Farm Labour Pool. Mary works at the Deerhome Institute.

GERRY HILLIER — S.E. 13-38-2-5

Mr. and Mrs. Gerry Hillier and sons **David**, nine years old, and **Chad**, seven years old, arrived in the Marianne district in July of 1975. Gerry has since gone into the metal-building construction business, erecting grain bins and quonsets, which has become quite successful.



Gerry Hillier family.

Our hobbies include snowmobiling, hockey, ice-skating, raising dogs and of course all the summer sports of Sylvan Lake. We have made many dear friends since coming to the country and do not miss city-living at all.

JOHN OSCAR HILMAN — S.W. 19-38-1-5

Oscar Hilman was born at Karijoki, Finland, on January 3, 1872. Migrating to Michigan in July, 1898, he married Mrs. Elizabeth Hakala and they moved to Minnesota where he worked in the iron mines for ten years. His wife, Elizabeth, died there, leaving Mr. Hilman with a young son, Richard. Later, he married Mrs. Ida Aho. Ida Saari was born at Alajarvi, Finland, on July 13, 1882, and came to America at age 18. She first worked in a boarding house, run by a Swedish woman, for \$10 per month. She started night school to learn English but was allowed to go for only two weeks. Her employer was afraid she might lose her hard-working immigrant girl, if she would learn the language

and be tempted to seek some more lucrative employment. In 1905, Ida married John Aho and they had two daughters, Sadie and Naomi. John was killed in a cave-in, in the iron mines in Virginia, Minnesota, and Naomi died in early childhood. Sadie later assumed the Hilman surname.

It was April, 1911, when Oscar Hilman came to Sylvan Lake to find a new home. The area was already heavily settled so he was unable to find a suitable homestead. He bought his land from the Canadian Pacific Railway for \$10 per acre. He later bought the quarter joining his on the east, from Alex Kinnunen Senior. These two quarters now belong to the Staudinger boys of Marianne Farms.

The land was heavily wooded at that time and the clearing was done by grub-hoe and axe. Yet Mr. Hilman managed to clear 17 acres that first summer. He did his first breaking with a team of oxen and two horses. Later that fall he bought a house from the Parvis, who moved to Washington State. He moved it on four wagons with eight horses and set about to make a home for his family who came shortly after, in a group of eight families, moving from Sparta, Minnesota, by train. Some of them went further west before settling.

All of the Hilman children received their elementary schooling at the old Marianne school, with it's big box-stove on which cocoa could be made in winter. Milk was supplied by each family, in turn. Mr. Hilman made a top for their cutter out of canvas so the kids could travel the two miles to school in comparative comfort. Old Casper was the faithful pony who guided them safely there and back.

Christmas and Easter were very special holidays in the Hilman household. Uncle and Aunt Sutela and their family, who had settled near Hespero, would often come to spend several days with them. The kids were all bunked on the floor on straw or hay-filled ticks. Church services were held in the homes on these occasions, sometimes with ministers visiting from Washington, Oregon or the Dakotas. Mr. and Mrs. Hilman were among the original members of the Apostolic Lutheran Church of Sylvan Lake, as were many Finnish pioneers.

In those early years, each fall after harvest, Mr. Hilman took a load of wheat to the mill at Eckville to have the year's supply of flour ground. The sacks would return home filled with unbleached white flour, shorts, middlings and bran. The bran sacks went to the barn for calf feed but the kids often dipped into the sack while doing the barn chores. The word "nutrition" hadn't gained it's modern day significance, but the kids knew what was good for them.

Like most early farmers, Mr. Hilman fished for pike in Sylvan Lake with a net. A tub full of fish lasted a long time when frozen and was always a welcome change in the diet.

In 1947, Mr. and Mrs. Hilman moved to a new home in the town of Sylvan Lake. Mrs. Hilman passed away in 1956 at the age of 74 but Oscar lived to the ripe old age of 92, passing away in 1964. The family of Oscar and Ida Hilman are as follows:

Richard, who returned to Minnesota after a few years, finally settling in Minneapolis where he and his wife, Mercedine, remain.

Sadie became Mrs. David Craig, of Nordegg. Dave was tippie boss at the mines there. Sadie, who is now widowed, lives in Calgary where they moved when the mines closed. They have a son and three daughters.

Aileen taught school for 14 years before her marriage to Eric Rantala of Port Arthur, Ontario. She taught at Daisy Nook, Boyle, Big Bend, Buffalo Creek, Fuller and Pine Hill. Eric and Aileen had a small fruit farm at Kelowna, British Columbia for many years and have more recently lived in town. Their son John and daughter Mary are both married and living at Lumby, British Columbia.

Raymond married Irene Matson of Brush Prairie, Washington. See Raymond Hilman.

Hazel had worked for several years in Minnesota and in Seattle, Washington, before her marriage to Wayne Rasanen of Plummer, Minnesota. They made their home at Vancouver, Washington, and had one daughter. Hazel passed away in November, 1952.

Philip — see his own story.

William (Bill) went to the San Francisco Bay area of California in 1937. He worked first in a machine shop and then at the Kaiser shipyards until his passing in 1947. Bill had always worked hard and enjoyed good health so when a blood clot stopped his heart at the age of 32, it was a shock to family and friends alike.

Arnold worked at Nordegg for some time before he joined the R.C.A.F. in 1941. After the war he returned to Nordegg, where he worked for eight years as a mine electrician. He married a young "schoolmarm" from Sylvan Lake, Jessie Cameron. When the mines closed they moved to Red Deer where Art worked for Red Deer Electric Light and Power for 23 years, retiring in 1976. Jessie retired in 1974, after many active years in the Faculty of Education. Art and Jessie have one son, Donald.

Selma was Mrs. Rolf Holmgren of Centerville (see Centerville).

Helen took up secretarial work. After working for some time at the Red Deer Advocate offices, she went to Portland, Oregon, where she has lived and worked ever since.

Edna became Mrs. Carl Bergstrom and still makes her home in the Centerville district - (see Centerville).

Emil farmed with his father and brothers on the home place until his marriage to Martha Frisch, of Pine Hill - (see Centerville).

Jean joined the C. W. A. C. during World War II. Following her discharge in 1943 she went to Portland, Oregon, where she worked until her marriage to Leland Matson of Battle Ground, Washington. They made their home at Battle Ground until 1971, when they moved to Burns Lake, British Columbia. They have four sons and a daughter. The two eldest, Dennis and Brett, have spent a lot of time in both Marianne and Centerville, graduating from the Sylvan Lake High School. Dennis is married to Brenda Bergstrom of Centerville and they live in Toronto. Brett is married to Connie Halvorson of Burnt Lake and they, with their two children, make their home in Yellowknife, N.W.T.

Harry married Caroline Matson of Battle Ground, Washington - (see Harry Hilman).

THE RAYMOND HILMAN STORY — by Ray Hilman S.E. 13-38-2-5

I was ten in the year 1921-1922 when Dad cut enough logs from our own land for 10,000 feet of lumber — with me on the other end of the cross-cut saw. He took the logs to L. Z. Medearis' sawmill. They were spruce and poplar. In 1923 our barn, 30 x 40, was built, ready for use by January, 1924. The stable, with the first story out of hand hewn logs, was built in 1927 by John Pajula from Finland. In summer, 1976, Irene and I and two of our children, visited his son, aged 72 years, in Nivala, Finland. Mr. Pajula had built a number of log buildings in the area and had returned to Finland in 1928.

A hail storm took all of the crop in 1924, and even the bark off the poplar trees. The storm was 10 miles wide and 60 miles long. In 1925, we had a good crop and stacked it all, Dad, Phil (11) and myself (14). "Yep" — us boys' wrists played out but we didn't go on strike! 1926-27-28 were real wet years, with heavy frosts as well, resulting in low grade grains. 1929 was very dry and the yields were low. We bought our first tractor that spring, a John Deere 1527. 1930 was a very windy, fairly dry spring. Fair crops. We bought our first threshing machine in the fall, in partnership with neighbors. It was a Sawyer-Massey 24 inch. Had an early snowstorm with big drifts. By mid-October it turned nice and the snow melted except bigger drifts and shaded places. Very lovely weather all winter, with no more snow. Another windy, dry spring in 1931. It started raining on June 9th and we had one of the best crops ever.

In 1930, wheat was 62 cents a bushel. We held it for three years and sold it for 33 and $\frac{5}{8}$ cents per bushel, shoveling it by hand into the box-car to make another one and one-half cents. Eggs were 10 cents a dozen, butter-fat 14 cents a pound and barley 14 cents a bushel. Wheat dropped to a low of 27 cents a bushel. One farmer made a deal with his thresherman: "You keep the grain (which was low grade) and I'll keep the straw". Another farmer, when told at the elevator, "I can accept your grain but I'll have to make the check out to the bank", drove to another and got the same response. He then drove down to the bank, backed his wagon to the manager's window, broke it with his scoop and shoveled the grain in, remarking, "The Bank will get it". 1932 — fairly good year.

In 1933 we made a trip to Minnesota by car — a 1928 Pontiac six. There were six of us; Dad, Mom, Auntie Sanna Sutela, Mrs. Kuores, sister Hazel and myself. We attended our church convention, where there were 10,000 in attendance. Also visited Dad's sister in Michigan, whom he had not seen for nearly 30 years. There were large signs along the roadside which announced that brand new Fords could be purchased at \$433.00. Plymouth and Chevrolet had similar advertisements. Gas in Minnesota was 14 cents per gallon. Canadian money was at a 20% discount.

In 1934 there was some hail again. Dad got up to 40% in places. 1935 brought such heavy crops that much of it lodged, causing spoilage and low yields in some places. A bitter winter set in the last week of October, with heavy drifting and temperatures down to 20 below (F). It was cold fanning wheat (to get a better grade) and hauling it to town with horses — whew! But I didn't mind too much as I was planning to head southwest soon.

On December 21, 1935, I was married to Irene Matson, at the home of her parents, at Brush Prairie, Washington. In the spring of 1936 we moved to the old James Dingman farm at Marianne. We farmed there for 12 years. About 1937-38 we bought a new cream separator — on time, of course — with payments of \$2.75 a month — which were mightily hard to meet many times!

Kerosene was still the main “light fuel” around. In 1937 my folks installed a Delco, gasoline powered generator with 16 glass jar batteries which had to be re-charged about once a week. On washday the plant ran all day as extra power was needed for the washer, water pump, iron and lights. Some time later, we installed a windcharger, which supplied power for the new home we built.

In 1938 Dad traded the John Deere tractor for a new McCormick-30. One of the first rubber tired tractors in the district. Still no air conditioned cab but the boys made one which worked real well. The fall of 1939 was a wet one. It snowed early and often. We had to clean the snow off the stooks and managed to thresh dry grain even with some snow on the fields. Had to have the help of six horses to move the separator at least once. In the fall of 1939, war in Europe was declared. Allies were at war. Finland was bombed. Prices started to rise and we had posters telling us, “Raise *less* wheat and help win the war”. Hard to understand then — more so now! 1940 saw a large percentage of able bodied men off to the front. Very little help was available. It was “do-it-yourself, or else”. ’41 and ’42 were more of the same. War news was mostly *bad*.

In 1943 we built a new house. Two men with a cement mixer came out from town to pour the basement. It took seven hours. Total bill for two men, mixer, mileage, together with all the “fringe” benefits, holiday time, medical, dental, hospital, etcetra, came to the enormous sum of 14 dollars. Total bill for plastering the ground floor of five rooms and bath was 105 dollars for material and professional labor.

Harvest help in 1944 was simply not available. We purchased a power-take-off Massey Harris combine. Finally got through in November after quite a wet fall. So cold the ice didn’t melt in the ditches during the day. “Stook” threshing was becoming a thing of the past, but — somehow it seemed nearly everyone kinda missed those old threshing crew days as there was always at least one clown on the crew. No opportunity for fun was let go by. Even a dead skunk in the hopper of the re-cleaner made a very hilarious scene for all — except the poor cleaner operator. Crew members had been “clued” in on the particulars. When all was set — “Plugged hopper!” was the call — heard above the clanking of the pulleys and sprockets. The operator ran to the hopper. Reaching in, he grabbed hold of the skunk by the mouth. Running around in a big circle and shaking his hand as if the skunk was still clinging to it, he provided a far better show than anyone had even hoped for. Yes, there was always the funny side of farming, especially at threshing time.

In May, 1945 everyone celebrated the end of the war in Europe, and in August, the war with Japan. I went into a store in Sylvan Lake and was soundly “bussed” by a lady who was kissing all the men because the war was

over. Certainly, everyone was thankful that the slaughter was over.

Farming continued with increased gusto in 1946 as there were millions of hungry to feed and much to rebuild.

In May of 1947, Irene and I pulled up stakes at Marianne and moved with our family, to Brush Prairie, Washington. We lived there until August, 1950, when we returned to Alberta, operating a dairy farm and delivering bottled milk to the town of Eckville. The winter of ’50-’51 was one of the worst. In March ’51, there was a big storm which blocked all the roads. Many of the drifts were hard enough to drive over by car. It took several bulldozers six days to open the highway between Sylvan Lake and Rocky Mountain House. On October 14, the following fall, the snow came to stay. Much of the crop was left out and big mice riddled a lot of fields, cutting the yields down from 70 bushels an acre for oats, to not worth combining in the spring. In 1952 a 10 minute “sunshine” hail storm took a heavy toll on the ripe rye crop. Very little left. On June sixth, 1952, seventeen inches of wet snow fell south of Calgary and temperatures were down to 35 in the daytime. Take note — it had been up to 75 in February!

1953 was a very normal year, if there is such but 1954 saw rain, rain and more rain, all spring. We were living at Rimbey by then. We seeded wheat on June 16, and July was hot and dry. The ground that had been real wet, dried out so you could hardly plow summerfallow on the clay ground. Started raining again on August 2. A real gully-washer. There was no harvest weather until October 11 and crops were badly frosted. Barley only weighed from 7 to 20 lbs. per bushel. Got through harvesting in November.

In 1955 we had more “normal” low yields. Canadian and U.S. money went to par. So, again our family took off for a warmer climate, to Goldendale, Washington, where we have made our home ever since. I worked in construction at first and then for the Goldendale School district until retirement in 1974. At present we are building a new home for ourselves, on an acreage adjoining the city. Only two **Naomi** and **Bryon**, of our children are at home anymore. Our oldest, **Loretta** Bierkos, lives at Sylvan Lake, Alberta. Others are as far flung as



Ray Hilman family.

Dennis, Helsinki, Finland, **Raymond junior**, Negaunee, Michigan, **Iris**, Martinez, California, **Darrell**, Yellowknife, North West Territories, **Howard**, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, **Wanda**, Vancouver, British Columbia and **Ronald** and **Anita**, Portland, Oregon, **Clinton** and **Harlan** of Goldendale, Washington. We had 27 grandchildren at last count. Harlan is attending University.

MR. AND MRS. PHILIP N. HILMAN — N.E. 13-38-2-5

Phil Hilman has lived in the Marianne District for most of his life. He was the second son of Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Hilman and was raised on the S.W. 19-38-1-5 which is only about three quarters of a mile from his present home place. In December 1939 Phil married Miss Lillian Matson, second youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Matson of Brush Prairie, Washington, United States.

In 1938 Phil purchased from Charlie Cook, the S.E. 12-43-3-5 which is situated west of Rimbey but later sold this to his brother Art when he purchased their present home place — N.E. 13-38-2-5 in 1940. This formerly belonged to L. A. Johnson. In 1948 Phil purchased N.E. 18-38-1-5 from Charles and Elmer Johnson and also the N. 24-38-2-5 from his brother, the late William Hilman. Alex Kinnunen sold the S.W. 24-38-2-5 to Phill about 1954.

In 1974 Phil formed a company together with three of his sons — Les, Lyle and Barry and named it Fairlane Farms Limited. The company is involved in mixed farming with the main operation being dairy.

It had been in 1951 that Phil switched from beef cattle to the dairy operation. He purchased a purebred herd of Ayrshires but then gradually changed to Holstein cattle which make up the majority of the present herd. There are about 140 dairy cows which are all bred artificially. The company also supports a small herd of 60 percentage beef cattle which Les takes charge of. In 1976 the farm built a new double — eight herringbone milking parlour cutting down considerably on the milking time. Three silos, with a maximum capacity equivalent to 1000 tons of hay, are visible for miles around. Silage is the main crop but they also grow a variety of grains.

In 1975, Les, Lyle and Barry purchased N. 25-38-2-5 from Stewart and Florence Craven and then in 1976 the N.W. 18-38-1-5, which are farmed by the company.

Phil and Lil have 14 children. **Merle** married Connie Anderson of the Shady Nook district and they have three children — Cheryl, Gene and Denise. Merle is presently living in Red Deer and is part owner in Roz-Con Construction. **Gerald** is living in Yellowknife, North West Territories with his wife, Arlene (formerly Arlene Yeoman of Calgary) and their three boys — Nathan, Danny and Kevin. Gerald is in partnership with his brother Glen in H. and H. Plumbing and Heating. **Jane** took her nurses training, graduating as registered nurse from the Royal Alexandra Hospital in Edmonton. She then went on to receive her Voluntary Order of Nurses from Dalhousie University in Halifax, Nova Scotia. Presently she is living in Calgary with her husband, Chris Crichton (formerly of Hythe, Alberta) and their son, Philip. **Roger** went into forestry and then later switched to construction. He is now residing in Calgary with his wife, Sue (formerly Miss Sue Somero of New Ipswich).



Phil and Lil Hilman 1976 near Tucson.

Glen graduated from Olds College having studied Agriculture, then later formed H. and H. Plumbing and Heating with his brother, Gerald. Glen married Faye Cooper of Mission, British Columbia and they reside in Hay River, North West Territories with their two sons, Mark and Greg. **Les** is living on the home place. He farmed with his father until 1974 when the company was formed. **Roy** went into plumbing and is presently in Hay River, North West Territories where he is employed by his brothers, Gerald and Glen. **Lyle** is a co-owner of Fairlane Farms Limited and resides on the home quarter with his wife Betty and young son, Jason. **Lorne** graduated from Olds College in Agriculture Production. He married Patty Wilson of New York Mills, Minnesota and they have one daughter Michelle. Lorne is presently residing, with his family, in Airdrie and working on his fourth year of accounting in Calgary. **Janet** graduated from Northern Alberta Institute of Technology as a Dietary Technician. She then worked three years at the Red Deer General and Auxiliary hospitals. She is presently working as a dietary technician at a school in Toronto. **Barry** is part of Fairlane Farms Limited and resides in the Kuusamo district with his wife Beth, and their two sons, Craig and Michael. Michael Lee arrived on February 7, 1977. **Joan** married the late Dave Forsberg of Fort Fraser, British Columbia who met with a sudden death in a sawmill accident just three months before their son, David, was born. Joan and David are presently living at Fort Fraser. **Allen** is now living in Toronto where he is working for Wells Fargo. **Leonard** (Butch) married Evelyn Forsberg of Fort Fraser, British Columbia and they have a daughter, Patricia. They are presently living in Fort Fraser where Butch is working for Holdings Mills.

LYLE M. HILMAN — N.E. 13-38-2-5

On December 28, 1948 Lyle and his twin brother were born to Phil and Lillian Hilman. He attended the

Marianne, Sylvan Lake and Red Deer Vocational High Schools. He also spent two years at Olds College where he specialized in Agricultural Mechanics.

Lyle makes his living by farming with his Dad and two brothers — Fairlane Farms Limited. In December 1975 he married the former Betty Knuuttila of Detroit, Michigan, United States. They have one son, **Jason Lee**.

BARRY LEE HILMAN — NE 25-38-2-W5

Barry Lee Hilman was born to Phil and Lil Hilman August 17th, 1951, at the Red Deer General Hospital. He attended the first ten years of school at Sylvan Lake, completing grades eleven and twelve at the Red Deer Vocational High School, graduating in 1969. After finishing high school he worked out until the fall of 1970. He then continued his education at the Saskatchewan Institute of Technology in Saskatoon for one semester, taking Renewable Natural Resources Technology. In 1971 he returned to farm with his father and two of his brothers. They are involved in mixed farming with dairying as the main operation and cropping and beef (ing) as secondary operations. In 1973 he took time out to take one semester of Agriculture Production Technology at Olds College, a two-year course which he is still hoping to complete. As often happens at Olds College, he met his wife-to-be. In August of 1974 he married Beth Rainforth of Lacombe. They lived in a trailer on the home place until May of 1976 when they moved to a new location (NE 25-38-2-W5) which moved them from the Marianne district to the Kuusamo district. On September 5th of 1975 their first child was born — **Craig Richard**. They are expecting their second child in late February of 1977.

HARRY HILMAN — SW 19-38-1-5

Following their marriage at Hockinson, Washington, in December, 1947, and a honeymoon in California, Harry and Carol Hilman settled on the "home place" where the Oscar Hilman family had lived since 1912. Harry was the youngest of the family of Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Hilman. The bride was the former Caroline Alberta Matson, of Battle Ground, Washington.

In the nearly twenty years that Harry and Carol lived in Marianne, life was very busy with mixed farming and raising a family. As with all farming, the warmer seasons were filled with field work and raising a big garden, canning, freezing and storing for winter use. The colder months meant putting up wood, hauling coal and fuel oil, butchering their own meat and putting in many extra hours caring for the stock. Both beef and dairy cattle were kept, as well as hogs and chickens.

In the first 10 years, hail became an annual event at Marianne and the Harry Hilman place was no exception. Only a steadfast faith, that God would provide, gave them courage to plant and hope, for better fortune "next year". Those years of hail became almost too much, even for the older somewhat established farmers, but for those just beginning, it took much more to build a foundation with these yearly disasters taking their toll. Hail has hit in the district sporadically before and after but those were the years that no one living in the district will ever forget.

Many exciting times were happy times. One that was not was the night in early 1964, when a short circuit in the



Mr. and Mrs. Harry Hilman and family while at Marianne.

electrical wiring caused their house fire. It was early evening, but being winter, was quite dark. Some of the children playing outside saw the light of the flames through an upstairs window and ran to tell their mother. Carol, with presence of mind, calmly told them to remove the smaller children to the sauna and care for them. She then went upstairs where she found the fire confined to one bedroom, but beyond her control. Methodically, she closed every door in the house and proceeded to the telephone. Lifting the receiver, she heard Wesley Bell talking with his mother, of Centreville. When she told them her plight, they gladly hung up. By the time she had called the Sylvan Lake Fire Department and Harry's brother Phil, Wesley was there. In the meantime, Mrs. Bell Senior had called her neighbors. Soon, men from all the surrounding districts arrived to do their part. Fire trucks came, and volunteers with tank trucks hauled water from the lake. Most of their furniture and belongings were saved, but the house was beyond repair. It was tinder-dry and burned quickly, having been built in 1900 by Andrew Parvi, and, in 1912, moved and enlarged by Oscar Hilman. A large, new home was built after the fire but the Harry Hilman family only lived in it until July, 1967, when they sold the farm to Mr. and Mrs. Bechthold. Harry, Carol and family, moved to Sorrento, British Columbia. There, they bought a smaller farm which included a cherry orchard as well as a few other fruit trees, pasture and hay land.

They took their dairy herd to Sorrento with them, but soon found that the farm there would not sustain enough cows for a viable dairy. Harry has worked at carpentry most of the time, much of it with building and maintainance for the British Columbia Parks Department. The farm provides abundant fruit and vegetables and they keep enough cattle and chickens for their own use.

In order of age, the children born to Harry and Carol Hilman while they lived at Marianne, were: **Rueben**,

Gale, Marlene, Darwin, Robert, Rhonda, Conrad, Luella, Wayne, Rosanne, Kenneth, Gregory and Gwendolyn (twins), Thomas, Bonita, Julia and Daniel. Born at Sorrento, were August Henry, who lived only a few days, Marika and Danna. Most of the family are either at home with their parents or working elsewhere in British Columbia. Gale and his wife, Naomi, make their home in Red Deer, where Gale works in housing construction and Naomi is a kindergarten teacher at the Parkland Christian School. Marlene and Don Rose live in Yellowknife, North West Territories and are parents of a small daughter and an infant son. Robert and his wife, Jeryl (Jay), live in Red Deer, and Robert is also with housing construction. Rhonda and her husband, Ray Woolridge, live at Tappen, British Columbia. They have two young daughters and an infant son.

PASTOR HJORTAAS

My husband, Pastor A. Hjortaas, was the Lutheran pastor in Sylvan Lake from 1911-1922. He served the districts in Sylvan Lake, namely Horseguard near Alhambra, Medicine Valley near Gilby, Vig's near Bentley, Aspelund near Blackfalds and one north of Gull Lake in the Lincoln school, and Sylvan Lake itself, after I came. He also went sometimes to Burnt Lake and I know he used to go to Evarts where we had services in a schoolhouse close to the Braton family. He also went to Dickson and Markerville, but not on a regular basis. Services couldn't be held every Sunday, due to the distances. We used a cutter and horses in the winter, and our old

Ford touring car in the summer. It was difficult getting around at that time, due to the poor roads, and having to use horses.

I married Pastor Hjortaas in November 27, 1918, coming originally from Oregon. Prior to our marriage, I taught the Frisco school from April, 1918, to October, when the school was closed on account of the "flu" epidemic. I was the first teacher there. My name then was Emma Eritslund.

A year after we were married, we organized a congregation at Sylvan Lake, holding services in our house for a time. Later services were held in the United Church, but that was when Pastor Aspero attended. We served the area until 1922 when we moved to Saskatchewan to a little town called Macrorie. We were there 25 years. We moved to Calgary from Saskatchewan in 1947, where Pastor Hjortaas passed away October 31, 1951. I remarried in August 6, 1954, to Gerard Benjaminsen, and we have lived in Camrose ever since.

F. M. (BOB) HODGES — N.W. 6-38-1-5

F. M. Hodges is thought to have been married in Wisetown, Saskatchewan. He was a veteran of World War I. The Hodges came first to the Sheppard farm in the Evarts district, which was situated near the Medicine River. They lived here until the fall of 1922. Their first-born was David, who was born about 1921, on the Sheppard farm. In the late part of 1922 or early 1923, the



Rev. Hjortaas and family, Sylvan Lake, 1920.



F. M. Hodges and Roy.

Hodges family moved to the Marianne district, buying land through the Soldier Settlement Board. **Roy**, the second son, was born about 1930. The boys attended Marianne school. Actually Centerville was their school district, but Mr. Hodges appealed to the government to have his land changed to Marianne district, as it was closer than the Centerville school. This request was granted, and so this explains the irregular southern boundary of the Marianne district today. The Hodges were interested in community affairs in both districts. F. M. Hodges was a member of the Marianne school board for many years. Their interest in church affairs was most evident also.

David passed away suddenly in his early teens from a ruptured appendix, and was sadly missed by family and friends alike. Mr. and Mrs. Hodges retired to Victoria in either 1951 or 1952, selling their farm to Duke Bell, who now resides on this location.



Roy Hodges family: Norman, Alan, Roy, Donny, Doreen, Paul, Frances.

Mr. and Mrs. Hodges' son Roy is a missionary in Nigeria, Africa, and at time of writing is responsible for 15 high school girls and 10 boys as well as dining facilities for them. Roy has a family of five children of his own, the eldest soon to finish high school, the youngest in grade four.

ABRAHAM HOLAPPA **NE 22-38-2-5**

Abraham and Anna Holappa were among the early Finnish pioneers, settling in the Kuusamo district in 1901.

Abraham Holappa was born on August 15, 1853, in the Province of Oulu, Finland. As a young man, he went to Norway where he was a commercial fisherman for 15 years. He then emigrated to Cavalier County, North Dakota. At Langdon, North Dakota, on March 4, 1896, he was married to Annie Puttala. Annie was also from the Province of Oulu, being born there on March 10, 1866. While in North Dakota, the Holappas became engaged in farming, the occupation that was to become their life work. Later, his farming experience was to be an invaluable asset to other homesteaders in the

Kuusamo district. Many new pioneers turned to Mr. Holappa for advice on crops and machinery problems.

When Mr. Holappa first arrived to claim his homestead, he left his wife and family in North Dakota, returning there for them after choosing their new homeland. In May, 1902, they arrived at their forested, houseless quarter section, located five miles west and two miles south of Sylvan Lake. During the long train journey to Red Deer, Mrs. Holappa and the children travelled in the passenger section of the homesteader's special, while Mr. Holappa rode in the cattle car with the livestock he was bringing with him. Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Parvi kindly allowed them to stay with them in their own small, already crowded house until the Holappa's one-room cabin was built.

The only daughter, Ida, recalls that the nearest shopping place was Red Deer. She remembers the long, tiring journey her father had to make with oxen, to fetch groceries and supplies. Some years later when the village of Evarts was established, the homesteaders welcomed it as a godsend. It meant fewer winter trips to Red Deer. Mail was also delivered to Evarts Post Office.

Mrs. Holappa cared for all the cattle and chickens herself. No male help was required to do the milking, as Mr. Holappa soon discovered. He attempted to do the milking but the cows' inner senses realized that inexperienced hands were at work and yielded less milk. Thus ended his career as a milk-maid. At times Mrs. Holappa had over 500 chickens, all hatched by hens in the spring. Income from the sale of dairy products, eggs and poultry was indeed welcome to the struggling pioneers.

Mr. Holappa's youthful experience as a fisherman in Norway had left a love of fishing in his blood, and he was often to be found with his friends, fishing on Sylvan Lake. Frequently these were all-night episodes, yielding an abundant supply of fresh fish, to add variety to the menu.

The local Santa Claus in those days was Mr. Holappa. He let his beard grow long and white, only shaving it off occasionally. Once when he was clean shaven, he met his neighbor, Jack Valli, at the Evarts store. Mr. Valli engaged him in conversation, believing him to be a stranger, remarking however, that his feet and his voice were familiar but not his face. When Mr. Holappa identified himself, a hearty laugh was enjoyed by all present. On one occasion, his whiskered face and fur hat, coat and mitts almost cost him his life. Mrs. Jack Simpson of Benalto often related the story of her first encounter with him. Looking out the window just at dusk, she saw something moving toward the back door of their store. Being frightened and nervous, she shouted to her husband, "Jack, get your gun. A bear is in our woodpile". Her husband, unafraid, looked out and saw that what, at first glance, appeared to be an animal was Mr. Holappa, plowing through the deep, trackless snow to his door. Mr. Holappa supplemented his income in winter by hauling hay and cutting and hauling wood.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Holappa loved life and felt it was good. They had cheerful dispositions, which brought much happiness to their pioneer neighbors. They both lived to a ripe old age. Mr. Holappa died on Christmas Eve, 1939, in his 87th year. Following his death, Mrs. Holappa moved to live with her daughter, Mrs. Ida Osterberg, in Calgary. She passed away on March 6,

1951, and was buried on what would have been her 85th birthday, March 10th. Both are laid to rest in the Kuusamo cemetery.

The Holappa homestead became a part of the Marianne district when it was formed in 1910. Two of the children, Ida and Sten attended the Marianne school. The large, two-storey home in which the family lived for many years was built in 1916-17 by Mr. Karl Soderlund. The unique foundation, made of large rock, set in cement, was as true sixty years later, when the house was demolished, as it was when it was built. Mr. Soderlund's price for labor on both the foundation and the house was the princely sum of \$125. Sten and his family lived in the big house for over 30 years. Abram moved the old house about a quarter of a mile north and batched there. The brothers farmed the place together. As they reached retirement, they rented the land to the Staudinger brothers who operate Marianne Farms. In 1971 the Staudingers bought the land. Abram had already moved into the Sylvan Lake Lodge and Sten and Senja bought a home in Sylvan Lake. It is a sad but frequent commentary of our times, but it wasn't long after the Holappas moved that vandals began to break into the house. Constant surveillance was impossible and within a few years the house had been damaged beyond repair.

Of the six children born to the Holappas, three died in infancy. Of those remaining, **Abraham** (Abram) was born November 28, 1899. Never married, he passed away on September 13, 1972, and is buried in the Kuusamo cemetery. **Ida** is Mrs. Wally Osterberg of Calgary. She was born August 2, 1901. Of their two sons, Arne is married, with a family, and lives in Calgary. Alvar was the victim of a brain tumor, and passed away on September 21, 1973, at 42 years of age. **Sten** was born April 9, 1906. He married Senja Korpi from Himanka, Finland. They are the parents of a son and two daughters. Helen and her husband, Herb Glenn, have four girls and make their home in Calgary. Larry and his wife live in Eckville. Elna, the youngest, also lives in Eckville.

Ida and Wally Osterberg keep in close touch with the community as they purchased the former Sylvester Saha homestead some years ago. Alvar took a keen interest in the farm and worked with his father on the land for several years. It is now rented to Marianne Farms, but the Osterbergs still spend holidays there in the summer-time.



Sten Holappa family.

Mr. Sten Holappa passed away on February 10, 1977 at the age of 70 years.

HUGO HOLACHER — S.E. 17-38-1-5

The Horlachers arrived at Sylvan Lake on April 12, 1952. They came to Canada from Switzerland after hearing of the farming opportunities through Hugo's sister, Mrs. John Ammeter. The Ammeters had already settled in the area. Hugo bought a farm: S.E. 17-38-1-5. His previous background had been first vineyards and flour milling in Russia, but the family returned to Switzerland in the 1930's where he worked in a factory. Ida's parents had farmed in Russia.



Horlachers arrive in Canada.

Of the three children; **Irma, Ralph and Marlene**, only the youngest, Marlene, attended school at Marianne from 1952-56. Her teacher was Mrs. Duke Bell. Occasionally, Mrs. Ida Horlacher played the piano at the Burnt Lake community hall and for the Marianne Christmas concerts. Of particular interest were the school picnics.

The eldest daughter, Irma, went to Whitehorse in the Yukon and married Don Karsenbarg in 1954. They now have two children and are living in Richmond, British Columbia. Marlene left for Chilliwack, British Columbia in the 1960s and married Harold Harms. They have two children. Ralph left the farm in 1972, moved to Vancouver and is now married and also has two children. Hugo and Ida left in 1973 and have now retired in Chilliwack, British Columbia.

The winters seemed severe after Switzerland, but the most outstanding storm was in 1952. Within minutes, hail the size of walnuts wiped out almost 50 percent of our first crop in Canada. We had never witnessed a storm like it. We feared hardship and realized it took a hardy breed of people to live in this climate.

A major event looked forward to by the Swiss settlers was the annual Swiss picnic held at Mrs. Huerlimann's farm at Sylvan Lake. We all enjoyed other picnics in the area as well; the Horlachers were famous for bringing the Shish Kebabs!

Another unusual event was to see the deer that used to come right into the farm yard. Once, we even saw a lynx.

Ralph used to help in the threshing season around the Marianne district. He still remembers the food served the threshers as the best he has ever eaten.

Tragedy struck in June, 1967, when Hugo had a serious accident. He fell onto a wood saw and was detained in the hospital for one month; it was a situation of life or death. Thankfully, he has recovered very well from this accident.

Because we were late-comers to the district, many of the modern conveniences were already installed. We were without electricity for some years, but when it was put in, the electric pumps and milking machines were a great boon. In later years, even natural gas was brought to the district.

In 1953 the first oil derricks were drilling in the district; all the farmers were keenly interested in this series of events.

Today, we reminisce about the fine friends and neighbours we left in the Marianne district.

AUGUST JOHNSON SE 24-38-2-5

August Johnson was born in Tornio, Finland, November 5, 1861, coming to United States as a young man. Hannah Blomster was born in Tornio, Finland also on February 15, 1861. They were married in Duluth, September 25, and later moved to Belt, Montana, before coming to the Marianne district in 1901. August homesteaded, improved his farm through the years, living on the farm until his death March 8, 1932. Hanna Johnson passed away suddenly September 5, 1938. Both are buried in Sylvan Lake cemetery. They raised a family of seven children: **Charles, Arthur, Elmer, Anna, Florence, Sophie and Selma.**

August was active in all community affairs, was a trustee of Marianne School district for a number of years (until his death). Mrs. Johnson was a very quiet kind person. Her main interest was her family and her home. They both worked long and hard through difficult times.



Mr. and Mrs. August Johnson.



Arthur, Selma, Florence and Charles Johnson.

The youngest member of the family, Selma, and her husband Bill Johnson (please note, name never changed), resided until recently on their farm 8½ miles south of Sylvan Lake in what is known as Pine Hill district. They have a family of three: Howard, Marion and Kenneth and six grandchildren.

August raised purebred shorthorn cattle. He was noted for a fine matched team and outstanding harness. Harry, Arthur Johnson's son, went to Marianne school for one year in the late 1920's.

CHARLIE JOHNSON — S.E. 24-38-2-W5

Charlie, the second eldest child of Mr. and Mrs. August Johnson, was born in Tower, Minnesota, in 1887. He was about fourteen years old when his family moved here from Belt, Montana. For several winters after, he and his father would go back to Montana and work in the coal mines. Later the Johnson brothers spent their winters at logging camps, west of Rocky Mountain House. Some of this lumber was hauled home to be used for the house and barn.

Hazel Niska Johnson was one of five children born in a sod house at Glenside, Saskatchewan to Ed and Mary Niska. Her parents had farmed in the Dakota's for several years prior to immigrating in 1904. Her grandmother, Mrs. Kemila and five children from North Dakota made a visit in 1901-02 to the Sylvan Lake area to see an old friend, Alex Kinnunen Senior. They spent the winter here and then moved to the Gilby district where each of the boys and the grandmother took up a homestead.

In 1937, Hazel came to the Sylvan Lake area to visit relatives. She found work with Oscar Hedmark. Between trips home to her parents and Sylvan Lake, she met Charlie Johnson. They were married at the Memorial Church in Sylvan Lake on December, 30, 1942 by Reverend John Hart.

Hazel and Charles had always loved the outdoors and gardening. Their first fruit trees were planted in 1944. The apple trees included the Battleford apple, the Rescue and Heyer 12. Several plum trees were planted and this fruit was really delicious eaten raw. Aroma strawberries and raspberries were included. The crops were always abundant and neighbors and friends have also enjoyed



Hazel and Charlie Johnson.

the fruit. A shelter belt of two hundred spruce trees were added to the existing trees.

Farming for the Johnson's was pretty well the same as for everyone. They did feel the loss though, when lightning struck and killed a horse. Another time, the horses ran away with the binder, hitting a corner post and smashing the binder to bits!

In 1960, Johnsons retired to the town of Sylvan Lake. Their home in town, as in the country, is beautiful with flowers and trees. Hazel keeps busy helping her elderly neighbors, getting their mail and things from town as well as mowing grass in the summertime.

Charles passed away in 1971.

ELMER JOHNSON — S.W. 18-38-1-5

Elmer Johnson was the youngest son of pioneer August Johnson. An out-going, friendly nature, Elmer made friends wherever he went.

The quiet, pretty girl that Elmer married in the fall of 1927, was Lillian Karkkainen, who grew up northeast of Eckville. Elmer had grown up at Marianne and he and Lillian made their new home just a half mile from his boy-hood home. Their place is remembered by most people for the school picnics, which were held there for many years, even after they were gone. Elmer was always active in baseball and other sports, at picnic time or any other time. Lillian would invite the ladies to chat in the house until the activities were under way, when all went outdoors to take part.

Elmer is remembered as a good neighbor, always ready with a helping hand. Meticulous in all that he did, he carried on his family's tradition of keeping his horses in top shape and always well groomed. His Model-A Ford was kept in showroom condition.

Lillian enjoyed needle-work and did her part as a member of the Marianne Ladies Club. In her quiet way, always a friend.

Elmer and Lillian would have loved to have children but were, unfortunately, not so blest.

Elmer's sudden paralytic illness and subsequent death, came as a shock to family and community. Coming without warning, he had reached into his back pocket for his wallet, to pay for groceries at Cobb's store, and couldn't move to bring his hand back. The clerk kindly helped him. He was only in the hospital for a short time before he passed away. This 20 year chapter was ended.

Lillian remarried and moved to Soap Lake, Washington, where she and Mr. Oinonen operated a Motel for about 20 years before his passing, several years ago. She remains at Soap Lake.

MR. AND MRS. JOHN JOHNSON, S.W. 10-38-2-5

John Johnson was born in Sweden in February, 1869. He came to Canada in 1898, living first at Brandon, Manitoba, later working on the railroad in the Crowsnest Pass. In 1900 he homesteaded on S.W. 10-38-2-5. Mr. Erick Mannerfeldt homesteaded the N.W. of 10, and he and Mr. Johnson lived together for a time. They often spoke of waking up one morning in June, and finding quite a depth of snow on their blankets.

Mrs. Tilda Johnson (nee Schill), was born at Sala Parish, of Enaker, Westmoland, Sweden, on May 11, 1863. She came to South Dakota, United States, in 1884, where she later married Mr. Schill. In 1901, they moved to the Centerville district, where Mr. Schill homesteaded the N.W. 34-37-2-5. There were four children, **Annie, Esther, Albin, and Emil**. Mr. Schill passed away a short time after arriving in Canada and was buried in the Burnt Lake cemetery.

In 1903, Mrs. Tilda Schill was married to Mr. John Johnson and they had a family of two children, **Henry and Hilda**.

Mr. and Mrs. Johnson, with their six children, resided on Mr. Johnson's homestead. There was actually nothing open for cultivation, and all clearing of land had to be done with axe and grub-hoe. The ground was very wet. Practically all low-lying areas had water in them.

The four Schill children attended Centerville, Marianne, and Evarts schools. The first of the children to leave home was Annie, in 1913. She married Carl Pearson of the Burnt Lake district. Esther married K. G. Nilsson in 1916. Mr. Nilsson was employed by C.N.

railways. There were two daughters, Ellen and Gladys. Esther passed away March 22, 1936, and burial was in Red Deer cemetery. Emil married Florence Dingman in 1921 and for six years he was with the United Grain Growers at Benalto, and for fourteen years he operated the Pool elevator at Sylvan Lake. There were two children, Charlie and George. Emil passed away August 13, 1947, and burial was in Sylvan Lake. Ablin moved to Newport, Pennsylvania, United States, in 1924 to further his education. He later married, and there was one daughter Phyllis. He passed away in 1950. Henry worked in Drumheller area in 1923, later for the Union Packing company, Calgary, and then in the trucking business in Benalto district. He later married Annie Ardell. Hilda remained at home with her parents, and in November 1936, she married Walter Valli of the Marianne district.

In November, 1937, Mr. and Mrs. Johnson held a dispersal sale, as they sold seven quarters of their land to their son-in-law and daughter, Hilda and Walter. They continued to live with them until Mrs. Johnson passed away on September 17, 1941. Burial was in the Burnt Lake cemetery. Mr. Johnson moved to Chilliwack, British Columbia in November 1941, and later to Penticton, where he passed away on April 2, 1946. Burial was in the Burnt Lake cemetery. After Mr. Johnson's death, the north half 13-38-3-5 was sold to Dave McNeil family by the estate. There are two children in the Walter Valli family, Maurice and Bonita. On July 31, 1954, Walter was accidentally killed, when crushed under a hay-loader. Burial was in the Sylvan Lake cemetery. Hilda remained on the farm with her two children. Bonita went through for an R. N., and is now residing in Oakville, Ontario. On August 1, 1961, Hilda was married to John Oliver Bystrom of the Centerville district, and Oli, Hilda and Maurice continue to farm one section of the seven quarters. The other three quarters have been rented to Bell's Sylvan Acres, for the past twenty-two years.

LOUIS JOHNSON N.E. 13-38-2-5

Soon after the end of World War I, Louis Johnson and his family settled in Marianne. Louis was the son of Isaac Johnson who was an early homesteader in the Melita district but later moved to a farm two miles west of Sylvan Lake. He had met and married Wilma while working in Montana before he joined the army. They had two sons, **Bill** and **Louis Junior** when they came. **Walter, Wilson, Lester** and **Wesley** were born at Marianne.

Their first home at Marianne was destroyed by fire. They had not enjoyed their new home very long when tragedy struck again. Death took the young mother quite suddenly and Louis was left bereft with his young sons. The baby, Wesley, was cared for by Mr. and Mrs. Elof Holmgren of Centerville. Later, the Bertram Bell family took him into their home. There he grew up and took the name of Bell. Louis moved with the other boys, to a place at Burnt Lake, and tried to keep them all with him. They lived there for about three years. Finding it impossible to work and look after them at the same time, the younger boys were placed in family homes. Bill and Louis Junior were not really grown up but began working on their own from that time on.

Bill eventually went to Spokane, Washington. He married there and he and his wife, Eleanor, have continued to live there. Louis Junior served in World War II



Mr. and Mrs. Louis Johnson and son Bill, Mr. and Mrs. George Johnson and daughter Edith.

and was married to Gertrude Salo of Eckville, who was in the Canadian Women's Army Corps. They lived at Sylvan Lake after the war. Their son, Jim, lives in Winnipeg. Louis died on January 24, 1967, and Gertrude makes her home in Eckville, where she is on the staff at the hospital. Walter is an accountant with the British American Oil Company offices in Calgary. He is not



Louis Johnson senior.



Louis Johnson junior.

married. Wilson and Lester both farm at Sexsmith, in the Peace River district. Wilson and Phyllis have two sons and a daughter. Lester and Ella have a son and a daughter. Wesley has lived all his life in central Alberta. He is married to Pearl Housman and they have five children: Bertram, Dawn, Denise, Kevin and Bradley.

A visit from Bill and Eleanor in July, 1976, brought the five brothers together for the first time since childhood. Bob and Helen Fraser (nee Johnson) hosted the family gathering at their home at Joffre. Helen is a cousin.

Louis Johnson Senior spent his last years in Ontario and passed away there in the late 1960's.

WILFRED KENZLE — N.W. 7-38-1-5

I was Ida, the youngest Dingman girl, living at home with my mother for five years on the old Hanson farm. It was then owned and farmed by brother James. Mother went back to Washington for a time, then came back to Canada and married John Rathwell, and lived in the Wood Lake district for a few years, then moved to Sylvan Lake where she lived until she passed away in 1957.

In 1935, I married Wilfred Kenzle, who came to the Marianne district with the Parks family, and lived for a while on the old Madden place. When the Parks' left the district, Wilfred remained and worked for the Moores in the Centerville district, and for brother James.

When we were married, we lived for five years on a farm near Sylvan Lake known as the Staudinger farm. Those were the years known as the dirty thirties. Times were hard. We lived quite near the railway tracks and the first summer, there were so many men came to the door wanting food. Some of them were so very young.

Wilfred exchanged work with a neighbor, Herb Welton, and was able to use his horses and machinery to put our crop in. He then worked at various jobs to make a living, and to get our own machinery and horses.

Our oldest son Lawrence and daughter Rosemarie and son Calvin were born while we were living at Sylvan Lake. In 1940 we were somehow able to buy the farm in the Marianne district known as the Norby place. It was in the early spring that we moved with the help of Bruce and Ada Hagerman. The road was so muddy that we just took with us a very few things and had to wait for a couple of weeks before the road was dry enough to get the rest. We managed quite well with good old apple boxes.

Our son Clifford was born that fall and in due time, Ralph, Ivan, and Dianna came along. Now there were seven children to keep in pants and shoes. We almost always had a big garden, so like most everyone else just starting in those days, even though our purse was usually slim, there were plenty of other things to make up for it. We had very good neighbors. The Helge Staudinger family and our family shared so much.

A few years after we moved to the farm we bought the big horse barn that my parents had built on their farm to replace the one that had burned. What a thrill it was for me to see that barn being moved to our place. I spent such a lot of my young life playing with the cats in the loft.

Our children took most of their education in Marianne. Some of them were lucky to have the privilege of going to the new school.

For the most part, life on the old farm was good. There were the bad years and the good. We had a lot of hail, and so often we just stood and watched our beautiful crop hammered into the ground, but somehow we managed to get feed for the cattle and they in turn fed us.

The year that polio swept the country, Lawrence and Calvin had it and we were so afraid that we were going to lose them. I am sure that it was only the love of God that brought them through. When we had them checked by the doctor, we were told they just had had the flu. There were days and nights that all I did was just go from one to the other and make them as comfortable as I knew how and prayed.

There were other people that were not so fortunate.

When Lawrence was finished school, he did seismic work for a time. Then he joined the air force. He took his training in eastern Canada. He was then stationed in Namao for a time. When Canada sent a group with the United Nations Emergency Forces into the far east, Lawrence was with the first group to go and spent three or four months in Naples. Shortly after he came home, he left the air force, and worked as a radio technician for C.K.X.L. for a time, and then was employed by Chevron, and sent to Houston, Texas, where he started working as a computer technician. He married a southern girl, and they have one son. They reside in Texas.

Rosemarie finished her schooling in Red Deer, then got a job with the air force and worked as a typist in Claresholm for some time. She met an air man there and became Mrs. James Long. Not long after they were married, Jim was transferred to Greenwood, Nova Scotia, where they lived for several years. They got a transfer to Comox, British Columbia. They have four children, three boys and one girl, and are still living in Courtenay, British Columbia.

Calvin also did seismic work for quite some time after he finished school. He worked in various parts of Alberta including the very far north. He later took a course in mechanics. He married Alice Moro, a girl from Eckville. They lived in Edmonton and later Eckville. Calvin did mechanic work there. Later they moved to Calgary where Calvin is presently employed. They have two daughters.

Clifford took some of his schooling in Red Deer, then worked at odd jobs for a time, before working in the oil fields. He married Dianne Pregoda, a girl from the Bluffton district. They lived in Red Deer and then moved to Bluffton area where they are now living. They have a son and a daughter.

Ralph has spent a lot of his time since school days operating heavy duty equipment. He took his heavy duty training in Calgary. For some time he worked for Duke Bell doing road and farm work. Ralph married Shirley Anderson, a girl from the Shady Nook district. They lived for quite a while in the Marianne district and the Shady Nook district. Ralph then got employment in Calgary and they moved there. They have two daughters and are still living in Calgary.

Ivan the youngest son also took his schooling in Red Deer and then became interested in seismic work. He worked in many places in Alberta and then went overseas for several years. Most of that time he made his headquarters at Malta. When he came back to Canada he lived in Red Deer, working there. He has one daughter.

Dianna the youngest of the family worked nearer home for awhile after she finished school. She went to Edmonton, and was an I.B.M. operator for Alberta Government Telephones. She worked there for about two years when she met Clayton Goodman, a young man from Saskatchewan, who was stationed with the Canadian air force at Comox, British Columbia. They have one son.

We lived in the Marianne district for about 22 years. We had an auction sale, and sold the farm to Dietrich Ammeter, moving to Sylvan Lake where we built a home and lived for about 12 years. During that time Wilfred did carpenter work. Our family were all near enough to get home to visit a lot and I also had boarders for several years. It seemed that our house was always full of boys. It kept me busy looking after all and the big garden that I always put in.

In 1971 we decided that we would like to move to a warmer climate, and after a lot of thinking, we decided that we liked Vernon, British Columbia, better than any place we had seen. It was about half-way between the place we had seen. It was about half-way between the we built the home in which we are living. We have Ivan's little daughter with us and Wilfred still does carpenter work. This is likely where we will spend the rest of our active years.

ALEXANDER KINNUNEN N.E. 24-38-2-5

The snow lay heavy, well over a foot deep. There was no road and not a track or sign of life crossed the endless white through which they passed. It was late November, 1900, when Alexander Kinnunen and his family arrived in Red Deer by train from Lake Norden, South Dakota. It would have been a formidable time of year if they had not had a definite destination. Their friends the Parvis, and Wetelainen had blazed the way. The river was not frozen, and the crossing was made on the railroad bridge, pushing their belongings by hand-car. From there, they hired a man with a sleigh to take them to the Wetelainen homestead, two miles west of Snake (Sylvan) Lake. For this long, cold trek, the larger share of wrappings were given to Mrs. Kinnunen and the girls. The men and boys would ride a stretch, then walk or run awhile to warm up. It took one long day to make the trip. Young Alex junior who had just turned 12, recalled that he surely must have run half the distance, and the memory of that day remained clearly in his mind as long as he lived. Very shortly the family moved into a log cabin, which had been the original Parvi dwelling and served as a temporary home for several successive families.

Alexander Kinnunen senior was born in 1849 in Putasjarvi, Finland. In 1873, he emigrated from Oulu, Finland, eight miles east of the Swedish border, to Michigan, United States. Here he worked in the copper mines for 12 years. While there, he married Mageleena Savela, who was born in Finland in 1854. In 1885 they moved to Hamlin County, South Dakota, and five years later to Sylvan Lake.

The Kinnunen homestead was in the original Kuusamo district but when the Marianne school was built in 1910, that land became part of the newly formed district. In 1904, when the Parvis returned to the United States, Mr. Kinnunen bought the Parvi quarter, which

was the N.W. 24-38-2-5, for four dollars per acre. His next purchase was the N.E. 23 from the C.P.R. for three dollars per acre. Mr. Kinnunen was a shrewd business man and was noted for his amusing replies when bargaining. One such incident was the time that Alex Staudinger bought some fence posts from him. Thinking the price too high, Mr. Staudinger asked "Don't you think they're a little too much?" Mr. Kinnunen studied the post carefully, pretending he thought the reference was to length, and answered in his slow, deliberate way. "Ya-a-a, I've cut them all 14 feet long. If you cut them in the middle, you'll have two seven foot posts. Now tell me, on which end is there too much?"

In 1902, the Kinnunens lost their youngest son, **Willie**, and Mrs. Kinnunen died at Evarts on April 18, 1910. Records from the little cemetery on the Parvi quarter are as follows; Oscar William Kinnunen, born — Bryant, South Dakota, 1895. Died age seven, 1902, as a result of accidental injuries. Dr. Donovan in attendance. Mageleena Kinnunen, born in Finland, 1854, died in 1910 of lung fever at the age of 56. Dr. Launch in attendance.

Soon after his wife's death, Mr. Kinnunen returned to the United States and in the following years he divided his time between Sylvan Lake and Minnesota. He remarried twice. His second wife lived with him at Sylvan Lake for a time, but they had gone back to Minnesota prior to her passing. In 1918 he sold his homestead and the Parvi quarter to Mr. Dingman, and he traded the N.E. of 23 to Mr. Hedemark for a butcher-shop in Sylvan Lake. He operated the business for a few years himself and then rented the building to a Chinese man who converted it to a restaurant. In the 1920's Mr. Kinnunen sold the property to Frank Bloom, and Bloom's Limited occupied the same location until the 1970's when the Bloom family sold it to the present owner T. J. Alexander.

Minnie was the oldest of the five living children. She was born in Michigan, in 1877. She married Charlie Kemila and they lived on an acreage on the western outskirts of Sylvan Lake for most of their lives. Upon retirement they moved into the town of Sylvan Lake, where they stayed until Mr. Kemila's death. Subsequently, Mrs. Kemila went to live with her niece, Mrs. Einar Einarson, in Innisfail. She passed away there on November 27, 1964, at the age of 87.

August John was born in Michigan in 1879. Being 21 on arrival here, he was qualified to take a homestead of his own right away. He chose S.W. 14-38-2-5, which he later sold to Mike Kuores. This land remains in the Kuores family, except 20 acres with the buildings on it, which belongs to Bruno Nawrot. August owned and operated a threshing outfit for a number of years, working at other seasonal jobs throughout the balance of the year. In his last years, he owned a cabin at Sylvan Lake, where he made his home. He passed away as a bachelor at Sylvan Lake on April 19, 1944, aged 65.

Of **Arvie**, another son, little is remembered. He went to Dinsmore, Saskatchewan sometime after 1910. He died there in early manhood, unmarried.

Ida was born in Michigan on November 3, 1885 and married Elmer Hyvonen of the Benalto district. They farmed near Benalto until their retirement to the Autumn Glen Lodge at Innisfail, remaining there for the rest of

their lives. Several of their children predeceased them. Those who remain are John, of Sylvan Lake, Aili, (Mrs. Nick Rahko), and Edna, (Mrs. Einar Einarson), both of Rocky Mountain House.

Mr. Alexander Kinnunen senior outlived his third wife, and passed away at New York Mills, Minnesota, in 1936, at the age of 87 years. Alex junior will be covered in a separate story.

ALEXANDER KINNUNEN JUNIOR — SE 24-38-2-5

Alexander Kinnunen junior was born on November 14, 1888, at Lake Norden, South Dakota. Alex, as he was best known, was almost a lifetime farmer in the Marianne district. He had celebrated his 12th birthday on the train, coming from South Dakota to Red Deer. In 1900, a boy of 12 was not considered too tender for hard work, and not too much encouragement was given to education. Thus, he learned to work on his father's homestead and remained there until 1911. Going west, Alex homesteaded in what is now the Oras district, locating immediately east of the Codner elevator. In 1919, he sold his homestead and returned to the Marianne district, purchasing the SE quarter of 24 from Peter Wetelainen. He farmed there as a bachelor until 1928. It was in the spring of that year that an attractive young widow, Helmi Patama, arrived from Finland. Helmi was a guest at the home of her aunt, Mrs. Oscar Hilman. Mrs. Hilman was a practical woman and lost no time in seeing that her niece met this handsome bachelor, who needed a woman's touch in his home as badly as her niece needed a home. Alex and Helmi were married on June 23, 1928. This union stood the test of time and in June, 1968, the Kinnunens celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary.

About a year after their marriage, they sent for Mrs. Kinnunen's daughter, Gertie, the only child of her first marriage. Added to their family, were two sons and another daughter.

In the late 1940's, the Kinnunens bought the SE quarter of section 13, from Ray Hilman. Besides gaining a much newer home, it gave them better access to the main road, with the mail route and the school nearby. Shortly after moving, the old home place was sold to Philip Hilman. Alex farmed for several more years before turning over most of the farming operations to his son-in-law, Norman Sigurdson. Later, he rented the land to Philip Hilman, while he and Mrs. Kinnunen remained in residence there.

The Kinnunens are remembered for their hospitality, especially on Saturday nights, when the Finnish Sauna was heated to the boiling point. Not only the Finnish folk came to delight in this "old-country-style" bath, which has a reputation for separating the men from the boys. Many a novice was initiated by fun-loving friends, and urged to "put lots of cold water on the rocks, to cool , them". The Helge Staudinger family were among the most frequent visitors. One Saturday, when Helge was away somewhere, the Kinnunens had told Marj to be sure to come over for a Sauna, with the kids, anyway. A heavy snowfall, which closed Kinnunen's driveway, would have stopped Marj from going but the boys had walked across the field between the two places, and were sure of a track where the snow was not too deep for the car. With Clif-

ford at the wheel, knowing he could do better than his Mom . . . even though he wasn't old enough for a driver's licence, they did make it. However, they hadn't been there long enough to think about the Sauna, when a fierce northwest wind came up. With so much loose snow on the ground and more coming, Marj decided they had better go right back home. They were urged to stay for a bit of lunch but she declined, saying she didn't think they could eat anything just then anyway, having so recently had supper. Sue Ann, the youngest, heartily disagreed, and voiced it with the proclamation, "I sure could. I could eat a Christmas dinner!" Her Mom won out and they made it home ahead of the storm.

In 1965, Alex sold his farm to Gus Podridski, and purchased a home in Sylvan Lake. Helmi still lives there. Alex passed away on September 10, 1969, at the age of 81 years, and is laid to rest in the Sylvan Lake cemetery. Respected and loved by all, Alex Kinnunen is remembered by young and old as a real pioneer and a real friend and neighbor.

Gertie was a dauntless little eight-year-old when she made the long journey to Canada to be with her mother and her new father. For the ocean voyage and as far as Ontario, she was in the care of a couple who were travelling from her home village to Ontario. The rest of the way she came alone, wearing a cardboard sign about her neck with instructions as to her destination, Red Deer, Alberta.

Not knowing a word of English, she enrolled in the Marianne School. By that time in history, all of the local children had a fair knowledge of English before they started school, so the other students found it hard to suppress their giggles during oral reading class. Gertie was undismayed. She simply turned and made a face at them and continued to read, loudly and clearly, if not perfectly.

Gertie and her husband, Eino Peltola, make their home in Delta, British Columbia. Their two grown daughters, Maria and Liisa, also live in Delta.



Mr. and Mrs. Alex Kinnunen.

William (Bill), eldest son of Alex and Helmi, was born with a steering wheel in his hands, and at the age of seven rather startled the neighbors when he drove his mother to church services at the Unity Hall, about two miles from home. He was ten years old when he worked all of a neighbor's summerfallows, driving a D-2 Caterpillar. Bill has driven for Canadian Freightways for many years and is one of the few drivers who is entrusted with the three trailer outfits. He has lived most of his married life in Calgary. He and Zona have five children, of whom the two oldest are married.

Waino, the second son, was a strapping six-foot youth of 19, when he was stricken with polio, in September, 1952. His sudden death was a shock, not only to the family, but to all who knew this happy-go-lucky boy with the perpetual grin. His last resting place is the Sylvan Lake cemetery.

Eila, the youngest, married Norman Sigurdson, of the Centerville district, on August 27, 1953. The day before, rain had turned Kinnunen's long driveway into mud. Ladies, going in to prepare for the reception, kept getting stuck. Each time, Eila was out with the tractor, pulling them through. Someone said, jokingly, that she would be out the next day, in her wedding gown, towing her guests in to the reception. By the next morning, Mother Nature smiled kindly with sunshine and balmy breezes. The mud disappeared, as only Alberta mud can do, and guests were able to drive in easily to enjoy a beautiful lawn reception, which followed an equally lovely wedding at Sylvan Lake Presbyterian Church.

Norman worked for oil companies at the time and they lived in several places in Alberta. Moving their trailer home on to the Kinnunen farm, they farmed there until 1961 when they moved to Baldur, Manitoba, to take over the farm of Norman's aging uncle. Being a very capable farmerette, Eila could operate any machine as deftly as she could stir up a cake or whip through the house work, a practice she has continued on their farm in Baldur.

The Sigurdsons were always active in community work, and ever ready to lend a hand wherever needed. As genuine friends, they were sadly missed and affectionately remembered when they moved away, especially by the young folk to whom their home was a haven of sympathetic understanding, an example of solid virtues and always, jolly good times.

Sherry was born in 1955. She began her schooling here shortly before they moved away. She married Bob Ramage of Baldur in August, 1975, and they reside at "Ramage Poultry Farm" near Baldur. Douglas was born in 1956. He took all of his schooling in Baldur, Manitoba, where he became active in hockey in the early grades. He continues his interest in the game, while farming with his dad. Wanda was born in 1959 and is in her last year of high school. They are all talented and enjoy instrumental music.

AUGUST KNOEPFLI — S.W. 22-38-2-5 — by Esther Knoepfli

In the year 1928, my husband and I and our little one-year-old daughter, Jean, moved from Sylvan Lake to the Marianne district. We rented one-half section of land from Alex Staudinger and farmed there for one year. It was a beautiful day in April when we took the ten-mile

drive to bring our livestock, our household belongings, etcetera with horses and wagons as well as a saddle pony. It seemed to take a long time to make the trip in those days.

We had a nice house to live in and the surroundings were convenient. We got a fair crop and a good garden. Prices that fall were starting to drop on everything. The depression was starting. Wheat had taken a big drop so we did not do so well after expenses were all paid.

We had good neighbors. Tom Brittons, Ed Mannerfeldts and Guttrudes were very kind to us in many ways. We really enjoyed our time there. The following spring my husband, August, got a job working on the road south of Sylvan Lake, so we moved back to town. In December, 1929, our son Allan was born. On May 1, 1931, we moved to the Peace River country and homesteaded on a farm near Hines Creek, Alberta. It has been my home ever since.

My son **Allan**, with his wife Becky and four boys, live in the yard and farm our land. **Jean** and her husband Gerald Vick, with their four children, live on a farm nearby.

CARL KROPF

Tragedy struck the Kropf family in Jennersdorf, Austria, in 1918. August Kropf and his mother, both were victims of the "flu", which had spread over Europe at that time. Life was not so easy for Carl, another son, after these untimely deaths, especially after his father remarried. He remembers the big wedding which was celebrated on this occasion. In 1928, Carl decided to come to Canada. At this time, money had lost all value in Austria, making his inheritance almost valueless. He and a friend, Carl Feitle, made the trip together, coming directly to the Hespero district by train and lumber wagon, where Carl Feitle's brother, Frank, had previously come and found employment. A job was found for Carl working for the late Charlie Schuneman where he learned many things about this new country. His sister often remembered him by letter, in what must have been some lonely times.

Carl moved to the Evarts district where he farmed from 1933 to 1945 on the Erick Mannerfeldt farm. After leaving Evarts, Carl went to Willow River near Prince George, British Columbia, where he was employed in lumbering. It was learned later that Carl was a victim of diabetes, and left to mourn two sisters, Lena and Orillia in Austria, and his father who was a miller and a farmer in Austria.

MICHAEL KUORES

Michael Kuores was born January 11, 1875, in Nurmoo, Vaasan Laani, Finland. After immigrating to the United States, he became an American citizen at the age of 20. While at Butte, Montana, he met and married Hilma Kriikku in January, 1904. Hilma was born in Finland on November 13, 1880. In 1902, she sailed from Hanko Niemi, to join her two brothers in the United States. After working six months at her brother's boarding house in Ironwood, Michigan, Hilma moved to Butte, Montana to join her second brother. She soon obtained employment at the hospital, where she worked until her marriage.

Mike worked in the copper mine, making three dollars a day, while Hilma gave birth to a daughter, Vienna Katherine, and a son, Walter Michael. In 1908, Mr. and Mrs. Kuores left Butte for a settlement in Oregon, called Siletz. They bought 80 acres at ten dollars an acre and established themselves in a tent, until a permanent dwelling could be built. They bought cows and chickens, and had part of the land plowed to raise oats. The ferns in the area grew so thick and rank that the oat crop was almost choked out. Hilma milked cows and made butter to sell, but there was no market unless neighbors' cows went dry. Most of their neighbors were Indians.

One night while in the tent, Mrs. Kuores was awakened by a bear. Filled with fear, she huddled with the two children on top of the stove for the night. When morning came, she discovered that the bear had cleaned all the chickens from the chicken coop. Soon after Indian friends ended the bear's hunts.

In the spring of 1909, Frank Staudinger explained to Mike the opportunities in Alberta. Leaving his wife, Vienna, Walter, and new son Wayne John Bernard to follow later, Mike located a homestead formerly owned by August Kinnunen, in the Marianne district. With her much prized sewing machine and a few clothes, Hilma and family boarded the train destined for Red Deer. The trip was not as smooth as expected, for the baby became ill and needed medical attention. Nonetheless, they arrived on time and were met at the Red Deer station by Mike.

Two horses were purchased. One cost 130 dollars, and the other 200. Shortly after, the expensive horse died of colic, which meant another had to be bought somehow. Mike cleared the land, cutting trees down by hand, pulling stumps with a horse, or burning or dynamiting them out. Land was not broken easily in those days. In the mean time, Mike freighted groceries from Red Deer to Everts by team, until the railway went through. To make some money, Mike hauled for the new railroad. Another source of income was hauling milk to the cheese factory owned by T. B. Miller. The roads were soft and swampy, and sometimes a horse and wagon would be lost in the mire and mud.

Mike Kuores filed a homestead near the Rocky Mountain House district, then named Blueberry Valley. It was traded for a car by Mrs. Kuores after Mike's death in 1919. In 1917, more cows were bought at 30 dollars for cow and calf, and Mike bought a quarter section of C.P.R. land, which was good crop and hay land.

In 1915, a brother of Mike was ill with tuberculosis. As there was no hospital then for the treatment of this disease, Mrs. Kuores took on the job of nursing him, which added to her work of caring for small children, sewing, cooking, milking, and many other duties. The brother died three months later, however.

Three years later, Mike broke a leg while putting a door up on the barn loft. The ladder slipped and his foot got pinned and broken. He was driven by wagon and team to the hospital in Red Deer by Mr. P. N. Cameron. It was harvest time, so Mrs. Kuores, Dan Webber and Mr. Woltti stacked the grain. Men were paid two and a half dollars a day with room and board during this time between 1911 and 1915.



Kuores family.

Hilma gave birth to two more daughters, Violet in 1910 and Ventla Sylvia, in 1916. Mike Kuores died in April, 1919, during the flu epidemic at the age of 44, leaving his widow with five children. The oldest two children helped with the milking and care of the 14 cows. The cream was shipped to Alix twice weekly. They received three dollars for an eight gallon can. Getting the cream to Elspeth station was difficult with small children, but it had to be done, as this was the only source of revenue until harvest time.

From 1920 to 1922, Hilma rented the land to a minister, Mr. Bellika and family. When they moved to the place, a granary was fixed up as sleeping quarters and they ate together with the Kuores family. It was a busy life, but they farmed the land and Hilma was able to look after the cows, chickens, pigs and turkeys, with the help of the children. She then bought one quarter section of the school land, which she paid for in ten years.

In 1924, Hilma had a six-roomed home built, using the native lumber Mike had planed at the mill. The original home was moved after the new house was built. The new house was lived in for fourteen years, but was just a shell the first year. The one thickness of boards was lined with lumber and papered over. It was a house of two rooms, with an upstairs that no one could stay in. The closest neighbors were the Vallis and Bertheusons, who, when help was needed, would give a hand.

For recreation, there were skating parties on the sloughs and ponds nearby and box socials held in Marianne school twice a year, Christmas concerts and picnics. A special fish mulligan feast was held on June 24 each summer. At the picnics Mrs. Kuores often came in first or second in the foot races.

A group known as the Sylvan Lake Young People was formed, April 18, 1924, at Hilma's home, with Mr. Knut August Staudinger as president. There were 34 members when the group organized. The book of minutes for the group is still kept for the Kuores family by Mrs. Knight. One of the meetings was also a farewell to a younger brother of Mike's, George, who came from Finland in 1920 to see Canada, and stayed a while to help put in crop for his sister-in-law.

Although Mrs. Kuores said it was a challenge in the early days to keep their heads above water, they never wanted for something to eat or wear. Hilma would wash by hand at night, and bake. They raised all their meat, poultry, milk, vegetables and so on. All clothes, even shirts, underwear of flour bags, and coats had to be sewn. Although there were no patterns to follow, Mrs. Kuores had a knack of style that she applied. She knit long warm stockings for all, mitts, gloves, scarves, tams and sweaters from wool from neighbors or wool she had carded.

All of the children attended Marianne school. Mrs. Kuores had public schooling in Finland, and Mike had attended school in United States. He was able to speak well and was an interpreter for some of the settlers who had language difficulties. He became a Canadian citizen in 1915.

Roads were very poor in the early days, with so much muskeg and swamp. Settlers often had to cut through farms. For a few years, a road went through Kuores' land before a graded road was built. Many settlers would often stop and rest the night, sleeping between haystacks. Sometimes when Mrs. Kuores went out to do morning chores, she would find settlers sleeping with their guns beside them.

In 1949, Hilma left the farm that had been a part of her life, and moved to Sylvan Lake, where she worked actively in her beautiful flower gardens until her death. Mrs. Kuores died in her sleep at her Sylvan Lake home, March 22, 1958. She is buried beside her husband Mike in Kuusamo Cemetery.

The eldest son, **Walter**, is a widower and retired at Kelowna, British Columbia. He has two daughters: Sharon (Mrs. Keith Reynolds of Kelowna) and Susan, at Terrace, British Columbia. There are three grandchildren.

The farm is now owned by **Wayne Kuores**. His wife Lena (nee Johnson of Calder, Saskatchewan) passed away in 1968. They have one daughter, Elaine, who now lives with her husband Norman Mattson, and their two children in Edmonton. Wayne married Renee Ferguson of Sylvan Lake and they now reside on Salt Spring Island on the British Columbia coast.

The eldest daughter, **Mrs. Vienna Kay Knight** took up residence in Red Deer. She has two daughters: Mrs. Betty Miller in Edmonton, and Mrs. Lois Toutant in Kamloops, British Columbia. Her two sons are Albert in Fort St. John, and Eugene also at Kamloops. There are ten grandchildren.

The second daughter, **Violet** (Mrs. Geoffrey Barrick) passed away in Victoria, British Columbia, in 1959. Her daughter Mrs. Corrine Swanson lives at Westlock with her husband Larry, and one son.

Sylvia, youngest in the family graduated from Olds Agricultural School. After teaching school for five years, Sylvia married Irwin Scott, an accountant, of Red Deer. She worked as Home Economist for several years for Alberta Power, until recently. She now manages her own business in their home in Edmonton.

The two farm houses still stand. The homestead house serves as a barn on an adjacent property, and the new house was sold and remodelled by the present owner. The surrounding farmland is still in the family, and now belongs to the Mattsons, at time of writing.

BENSON LATAM — N.E. 12-38-2-5

Benson and Margaret (the former Margaret Ross of Springvale, Alberta) Latam moved to the Marianne district when Winston (Pat) was a toddler. They lived on the land that was owned by Mrs. Haggith.

They had four children: **Lorne, Dennis, Winston (Pat), and Doris.**

Mrs. Latam lives at the Auxiliary Hospital in Red Deer.

NEIL LEITCH — N.W. 18-38-1-5

Mr. and Mrs. Neil Leitch, nee Miss Wilhelmina Walton, were married in Radnor Park Presbyterian Church, Clydebank, Scotland on January 2, 1919. In 1920, after Mr. Leitch was discharged from the armed forces they came to the homestead which Mr. Leitch had at Oyen, Alberta. He had come to Canada in 1908 and taken out his homestead at Oyen in 1910. When World War I began, he joined the 10th Canadians at Calgary and served overseas in France throughout the war.



Mr. and Mrs. Neil Leitch — 50 wedding Anniversary.

In 1937, Mr. and Mrs. Leitch and daughter Christine moved to the Marianne district near Sylvan Lake and continued to farm there for many years. Mr. Leitch passed away November 16, 1969. They had celebrated their golden wedding anniversary the previous January.

Mrs. Leitch now resides at the Dr. Parsons Auxiliary Hospital in Red Deer, still enjoying visits from old friends and neighbors from Marianne and surrounding districts. **Christine** is Mrs. Marvin Elwell of Spokane, Washington, and she and her husband have two sons — Neil and Lee, and one granddaughter.

ALVIN LJUNGGREN Pt. N.E. 24-38-2-W5

Alvin and Margaret Ljunggren and their two daughters Laurel and Rhonda moved into a new house in the Marianne district, December 10, 1965.

The house and buildings are situated on fifty acres of N.E. 24-38-2-5. The rest of the 185 acres are in S.E. 24-38-2-5. The land had been owned variously by Charles Johnson, Phil Hilman, Wesley Bell and finally by a J. Visser.

In June of 1965, Margaret Laurel and Rhonda, then ages twelve and six, came from Goderich, Ontario, to Red Deer. While staying with Marg's parents, the Bryants, they got the house construction underway.

Al remained in Clinton, Ontario, to finish off his fifteen years service with the RCAF as a Radar Technician and Instructor. He rejoined the family in September in a motel in Sylvan Lake where they lived until construction of the main level of the house was completed. That winter, Al and a carpenter finished the lower level.

Meantime, Marg had been working in the Bank of Commerce in Red Deer and transferred to the bank at Sylvan Lake in May of 1966. That summer the cow-calf operation was set up and the first calf crop started arriving in March, 1967 with much excitement. Every time a new calf arrived safely, Marg got a phone call at the bank from Al! Al learned a lot from the veterinarian and neighbors, so by the next spring he was a more competent midwife.

All the land was in hay and pasture so there was much hay to bale and Laurel, by then nearly fourteen, was enlisted to drive the tractor, and a very good driver she was. Rhonda was kept busy taking them cold drinks on her bicycle.

In 1972, after a wet summer, three cows died of bloat, so it was decided to sell off the cattle. It was a happy decision, as shortly afterwards, the cattle market dropped and has been depressed ever since.

After the cattle were sold, the land (except for about 30 acres of hay) was put back into grain and is farmed by Fairlane Farms.

Marg had resigned from the bank early in 1971 and they had bought the Amusement Centre in Sylvan Lake in August of that year.

Laurel graduated from High School and entered the University of Alberta School of Nursing. She graduated with the class of 1973, winning the Strathcona award for Surgical Nursing. She worked in the cardiac surgery recovery room at the University of Alberta hospital until August, 1976. She was married to Dennis Sosnowski on

February 16, 1974. They are now living in Peace River, Alberta, where Dennis is teaching Junior High School and she is working in the Operating Room and Intensive Care Unit at Peace River Hospital. **Rhonda** graduated from Sylvan Lake High School in 1976. She plans a career in music and is studying for her Grade 10 piano and her ARCT.

ERICK MANNERFELDT N.W. 10-38-2-5

Erick Mannerfeldt came to Canada in 1899 or perhaps before. Selling his store in Sweden, he decided to try his luck in Canada. Landing in eastern Canada by boat, he worked his way across Canada until he came to Winnipeg. Here he met John Johnson, another Swedish man, and here began a lifelong friendship. Together, Erick and John came to Red Deer, interested in land location. They stopped at the Bertheuson farm in the Marianne district, and stayed overnight. The next day Peter Bertheuson took them in search of land, charging them five dollars for his trouble. After the first day, they were not very happy with what they had seen, as nearly all the land they looked at was very wet and full of sloughs. Mr. Johnson wanted to go back to Red Deer, but Erick maintained that there must be some good land somewhere between all those sloughs. They went on their own the next day and found land they liked on the west half of section ten. Erick took the north quarter, and Johnson took the south. These were filed on in 1900.

A cabin was soon built on the highest point of land in the centre of Erick's quarter, looking south to a small pond and west to the mountains. Mannerfeldt and Johnson always had the greatest of respect for each other, and so their living together did not present any problems. Erick was the proud owner of an ox, and Mr. Johnson had an ox too, so they put them together to make a team, working sometimes for Johnson and sometimes for Mannerfeldt. Erick mentioned to his grandchildren, that on trips to Red Deer for supplies, the oxen needed encouragement every step of the way, and even though he was a kind-hearted man, and loved animals, I imagine the oxen's posteriors were a bit tender by the time they reached Red Deer, late in the day. The following day an early start would be made home after the necessary shopping was done, arriving home shortly after dinner, with amazing speed. The oxen just didn't like the idea of going to town. Later, Erick had a poorly matched work team, namely an ox and a horse. A team of horses was later bought, and as there was no barn for them they had to be tied to poplar trees near the cabin. Finally the horses were given their freedom, and the next morning it was with pleasure to find the horses were just a few rods away. This proved that they felt at home now too. Fences were unheard of then, and for years the cows and horses had to wear bells around their neck, to let their owners know in what direction to start searching for them.

The winters for the next couple of years were spent in the Crowsnest Pass, where Erick became foreman of a work party, working on the railroad there. Summers were spent in harder work still, grubbing trees, plowing, fencing, and trying to get a little land seeded. Finally a square cabin was built of logs on the north boundary of the quarter, mid-way. This was the beginning of the building site, still in use today. Later yet, as finances improved, the house was remodelled and painted.



Ljunggren family — 1971.



Mr. and Mrs. Erick Mannerfeldt.

Erick was a very quiet spoken man, and I am told that in Sweden had been a minister. On arriving at Evarts, it was not long before Erick found the Swedish Mission Church at Burnt Lake, often speaking there. I am also told that the older people liked to listen to him, but the younger ones got a bit bored, because he spoke so slow and quiet.

You might say that Erick Mannerfeldt was community minded. He took a keen interest in working on the roads, and spoke loud and clearly about straightening the existing roads, rather than improving them where they then were. There were numerous sloughs on the Burnt Lake Trail, which went right by the doorstep, and the one immediately east of the farm, was one he finally persuaded the powers that be, to do something about. The road was built straight through the slough, of corduroy, which is still at the bottom of the road-bed there today. Taxes for the school those first years were eight dollars for each quarter section, and the road taxes were usually worked out with hand labor or with a team. Erick served on the Marianne school board as trustee for six years. His first term started in 1911, which was one year after organization. It is noted in the Evarts school minute book, that the Mannerfeldts often got the tender for putting up wood for the school.

I would like to return to Nisterhult, in Smoland, Sweden, which is 50 miles from Stockholm. Here we can pick up another thread of the Mannerfeldt story. A young miller, by the name of Svend Johansen, met and married Charlotte Augusta Neilsen in approximately 1887. Four children were born to this marriage. Their names were **John, Edwin, Ragnar, and Frida**. At the turn of the century, Mr. Johansen became ill, and died of a lung ailment. It was thought that his illness was caused by the dust from the flour he milled. This untimely death, left Mrs. Johansen with four children to provide for, and she found this extremely difficult. The stories she read about Canada, the land of opportunity, were interesting. Mr. Cronquist, who later became well known in the Red Deer area, had left a book in a store, owned by a Mr. Anderson. This book also told of the wonders in the new

world. It had a picture of Lindholms' house at Burnt Lake. This picture showed flowers blooming around the house, a lake in the background and swans on the lake. There could have been a trick photographer around, as conditions were not exactly so rosy at that time in Burnt Lake.

It was no doubt with some misgivings, that Charlotte Augustas decided to leave her family in Sweden and come to Canada with the Anderson's, promising them that she would work for them for one year in payment for her passage to Canada. In was in 1903, that they sailed from Stockholm on a large boat, the "Mon Temple". It took about two weeks to cross the ocean. Another long trip was ahead of them on the train across Canada. Vaccinations given on the boat had caused some discomforts, and the usual sea-sickness had prevailed.

Carrie (Anderson) Nickolson being just a little girl, relates that she and her brothers had nothing but fun on the trip, and that it was a real adventure. A young boy, Victor Lindquist, making a promise to work for the Anderson's for his passage, also made the trip with this group. As it happened, neither he or Charlotte held true to their promise to the Anderson's. Victor went homesteading. After six months in Burnt Lake, working for the Anderson's, Charlotte had met Erick Mannerfeldt, a former acquaintance from Sweden who had frequented the Anderson home. It was here she decided to accept Erick's offer of marriage, and so it was not long before the Mannerfeldt's were settled in their new home.

It was about this time that Charlotte was given the sad news that her oldest son John, who was 15 years old by now, had sailed on a fishing boat as cabin boy, never to be heard of again. I can imagine it was with a heavy heart, that she had to assume that he was dead. No time was lost in sending for the remainder of Charlotte's family. Ragnar and Ed were sent tickets for their way to Red Deer, and provision was made for little Frida too. It was a big disappointment for Charlotte when Frida did not accompany the boys. Repeated letters and pleas for her to be sent came to no avail. Heartbreaking trips were made to Red Deer to meet trains, but she was never on them. The sister in Sweden could not bear to part with Frida, and as she was so young when left with her aunt, Frida soon had no desire to come to Canada. Frida still resides in Sweden, where she married a mill worker, who prepares furniture wood. No time was lost in adopting the boys, and from here they were known as Mannerfeldt.

A car was bought for the family in 1917, being one of the first in the district. This made life much more enjoyable. In later years Erick purchased a 1928 Durante, which was a deluxe car of its time. It had silk tassel "pulls" for extra comfort, curtains to draw on the windows, and a push-out windshield. This car was upholstered with bright blue plush, which was painstakingly taken care of. Erick continued farming for some years, and after the boys were no longer with him, he made arrangements for his two nephews, Gus and Folke Mannerfeldt, to come to Canada and live with him. This they did and they will be covered in separate histories. Folke came from Sweden first, and after about two years, Gus followed.



Erick Mannerfeldt family — 1917-18.

The church was never forgotten in the Mannerfeldt household, and ties were never broken with the Burnt Lake district, as attendance at the Swedish Mission Church at Burnt Lake, and also the Baptist church was regular. Sunday visiting was always looked forward to. Every summer a captain in the Salvation Army, with his family from Calgary, spent a vacation at the Mannerfeldt home. Two very dear friends were Rev. and Mrs. Wingblade. He had been the minister at the Swedish Baptist Church from 1909 until some time later. He later became M.L.A. for the Wetaskiwin riding, and it was considered an honor by the family when Mrs. Mannerfeldt passed away on May 14, 1941 at the age of 80 years, to have him conduct the funeral service from Burnt Lake. Interment was in the Burnt Lake cemetery. Erick lived on at the farm for a few years until he suffered from a stroke. He then moved to his son's farm, where he lived until his passing on March 17, 1946, in his 83rd year.

Life had never been easy for Erick and Charlotte, but I feel they enjoyed life as much as was possible. Erick loved his spruce, and spent hours trimming, and planting more. He enjoyed sawing and cutting down trees, too. He spent hours constructing a picket fence which still surrounds the house. He ripped these boards with a saw, and painstakingly whittled the top design on each one. Charlotte enjoyed knitting, and in earlier years spinning, making cheese, and crocheting. She always had the coffee pot ready for company. Visiting neighbors was their chief enjoyment.

AUGUST RAGNAR MANNERFELDT N.E. 15-38-2-5

A. Ragnar Mannerfeldt was born in Oskarshamn, Sweden, January 15, 1892. Ragnar with his brother Edwin made the voyage from Sweden to Canada in 1906. He was the oldest son of Sven and Charlotte Johansen. His mother had immigrated to Canada in 1903 after the death of her husband. In the winter of 1903-4 she and Erick Mannerfeldt were married.

The Mannerfeldts had one of the first grain grinders in the district. People from miles around brought their grain here to be ground. This kept the men in the family very busy. Sometimes neighbors were there by 8:30 in the morning and the last one would be finished about 10 o'clock that night.

In 1916, Ragnar went to work for the Smith Brothers Island Ranch. Part of his job was the maintenance of the six-horse power International baler. As much as twelve tons of timothy hay would be baled in a day. This hay was hauled to Benalto and put on boxcars for the coal mines and logging camps out west. For his services at the farm, Ragnar received a gold watch when he left. This watch is still treasured by his family.



Ragnar Mannerfeldt 1920.

Many young people would gather once a week at the Riekki home in Kuusamo for a social evening. Games and singing around the piano were always popular. Ragnar, along with other young people from this district, took part. He had the reputation of being one of the jolly ones.

It was at a skating party on the Hudson Bay slough in Shady Nook that Ragnar Mannerfeldt and Helga Anderson, daughter of Mrs. John (Matilda) Anderson of Shady Nook, met. They had gone to school the same year at Evarts but Ragnar was one of the "big" boys then. This meeting on the skating pond was the beginning of a happy courtship. They were married at the manse of the Presbyterian church in Red Deer by the Reverend W. G. Brown on January 20, 1922.

They lived with Ragnar's folks that winter with hopes of building their own home on Ragnar's farm in the spring. It was the custom in those days to chivaree a young married couple and demand a dance. Sometimes this was a real hardship because most couples didn't have the money to rent a hall and orchestra. The night Ragnar and Helga were chivareed, the visitors were treated very royally and were offered so many good things to eat that no one had the nerve to ask them for the dance.

Tragedy struck in May. Ragnar died of a ruptured appendix, leaving Helga, a bride of five months, a widow. She moved back home to her mother, Mrs. Matilda Anderson, of the Shady Nook district. Their son **Ragnar Junior** was born there.

His earliest recollections were of a home full of activity with four uncles, an aunt in university, a grandma, and him and his mother. He went to the Shady Nook school. Many a summer day was spent with Andy Neiman collecting magpie and crow eggs and gopher tails. For

this they got two cents for an egg and one cent for a tail. They knew the surrounding neighbourhood quite well. Skates were earned by selling subscriptions to the Red Deer Advocate. With the money he earned as janitor at the school, he bought calves. School days were mostly happy days. The Shady Nook school was the champion softball team and for several years they won the ball tournament at Lacombe. He remembers his mother would sell her two spring lambs and this money was always reserved for his school shoes.

Helga Mannerfeldt passed away in July of 1957.

ANGUS RAGNAR MANNERFELDT E ½ 15-38-2-5

The quarter land that had been left by Ragnar's father was farmed for several years by different neighbors, among them Carl Anderson, Tom Britton, Wayne Kuores and Edwin Mannerfeldt. When Ragnar was seventeen years old, he and his mother moved here to the Marianne district. A little three-roomed house was built with the help of kind neighbors and relatives. With only a few chores, Ragnar worked for the neighbors or wherever work was available. Sometimes instead of taking cash, he would borrow their machinery to work his land. Wages weren't much compared to today. He remembers helping one farmer put up hay and receiving fifty cents for his efforts.

It was a memorable day in 1948 when he bought his first new tractor, a John Deere 'D'. This tractor had been ordered two years previously and the price in one year, had risen from 1,800 dollars to 2,700 dollars.

The next improvement was a water pressure system. This was a big help for his mother, who had been crippled by sickness years before. The well was witched by two friends, Wayne Kuores and Mrs. Fred Blaine. Both suggested the same place and it was close to the house. Today, thirty-six years later, the well still flows as well as it did then.

On June 17, 1956, Ragnar and Edna Brod of Thorsby were married. It was a beautiful summer day. The country church was small and not everyone was able to be inside. The windows were open, and Duke Bell and Gust Olson stood on a bench to see the activities going on inside. There was quite a racket when the bench with the men collapsed.

Getting to know all the folks in the neighborhood was fun, and the annual picnic on the Elmer Johnson quarter, assured Edna that this was indeed a very friendly community. Edna grew up on a farm near Thorsby, took eleven years of schooling at the Thorsby public school and graduated from grade twelve at Canadian Union College, Lacombe. She then attended Pacific Union College, Angwin, California, studying music. It was while she was working at the admitting office in the University hospital in Edmonton, that Ragnar and Edna met.

The beginning of their dairy herd was two cows Ragnar bought in the fall of 1956. In 1975 they sold their first fluid milk on a graduated entry basis. This was a program the government had implemented to help the farmers, who were selling industrial milk, to get into the fluid milk market. This year, 1976, Ragnar won an award from Alpha Milk, for producing premium quality milk for the past year. This award is presented annually



Helga Mannerfeldt and Ragnar — 1923.

to those producers whose milk stays above a certain level of requirements for a whole year.

The neighbors have always been of help to each other. During the winters, the rounds were made sawing stove-wood for each family. In 1951 every able-bodied man was out cutting the brush along the road-sides. That was the year Calgary Power put electricity into the homes that wanted it. There was co-operation when new homes were built. Many came and helped mix the cement and pour foundations. In 1964-65 Ljunggren's, Britton's and Mannerfeldt's got the natural gas piped in. Today the wood-pile is gone. Most homes are heated with either oil, propane or natural gas.

The neighborhood buzzed with excitement when plans for a rural telephone line were finalized. This project had been spearheaded by the Marianne Women's Club. The men worked for several months and even though seven families shared one line, everyone was happy with this modern convenience. One line hooked up to the Centerville telephone line at Stainor Valli's. The other line was strung on the telegraph line on the C.P.R.

In a community this size everyone shared to keep going. The Mannerfeldt's have tried to do their bit. Ragnar and Leslie Hilman were trouble-shooters on the two telephone lines. It was quite a feat to wade waist deep snow and climb the half-rotten telegraph poles to replace insulators et cetera. They sighed with relief when the telephone lines went underground and were taken over by the government. Edna was secretary-treasurer of the Marianne Mutual Telephone Company after Marjorie Staudinger left the district. She also took her turn as president and secretary of the Marianne Women's Club. The family enjoyed taking part in the Sylvan Lake community choir, and the community band. Today Karen still enjoys playing her flute in the band at her school, and

Jaelene her french horn, besides the organ and piano. Jamie plays the trumpet in his church-school band.

Ragnar and Edna have four children: **Jaelene**, a junior chemistry major student at Andrews University, Berrien Springs, Michigan; **Karen**, a senior at Rio Lindo Academy, Healdsburg, California; **Ronald**, a junior at Lindsey Thurber Comprehensive High School in Red Deer; and **Jamie**, a grade six student at the Sylvan Meadows Academy near Sylvan Lake.

The family was happy when Jaelene won an award from the County of Red Deer in 1969 in a Farm Safety essay contest. In the summer of 1974 she won a trip to Ottawa as an Alberta winner in the "Youth of the Year" contest, sponsored by the Canadian Christian Women's Temperance Union. The girls enjoyed the Evarts 4-H Sewing club and taking part in the Red Deer Kiwanis Music festival. Ron was a member of the Happy Hill 4-H horse club.

FOLKE MANNERFELT — N.W. 10-38-2-5

Folke was born in Upsala, Knutby, Sweden. His teenage years were spent on a dairy farm and he expressed how much he disliked his job. One day he told his father he hated his job and wished his uncle, Erick Mannerfeldt, would send for him to come to Canada. It was a year before his dream was to come true.

Landing in Canada in 1924, he found it hard to communicate with people. At one restaurant the manager finally said, "I know what he wants", and gave him some cheese and bread. Folke celebrated his twentieth birthday while travelling on the train west to Red Deer. Gus, Folke's brother, came to Canada two years later.

The brothers built a little two-room log cabin on their uncle Erick's farm. They farmed their uncle's land and also rented the SE 10-38-2-5 which belonged to John Johnson. From there they moved to Centerville. It was while working in a lumber camp that Folke heard of a



Ragnar Mannerfeldt family. Standing — Ragnar, Jamie, Ron. Seated — Edna, Karen, Jaelene.



Keith, Charlotte and Folke Mannerfeldt.



Steve, Phyllis (Mannerfeldt) Molnar, and family.

quarter of land for sale southeast of Rocky Mountain House. He married Charlotte Merritt of Indus, Alberta. They have two children; **Phyllis Molnar**, who lives near her parents; and a son **Keith** who is working at the present time for Heritage Glass in Rocky Mountain House. Gustaf Mannerfeldt — (see Centerville).

VERN MARTENS

Vern Martens was born in Steinbach, Manitoba February 13, 1950. His family moved to Abbotsford, British Columbia, in 1966, where he completed his senior high school education. Here he met his future wife, Bonnie Zacharias, who was born in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, in 1952, and moved to the coast of British



Vern and Bonnie Martens with Rachel and Mandy.

Columbia with her family at the age of four years. They were married in 1970, and their first-born, **Rachel**, arrived in 1971. In the fall of 1974, they moved to the Lacombe-Blackfalds area to work on a beef and grain ranch. In the spring of 1975, they moved with their trailer to N.W. 22-38-2-5. It was here their second child, **Amanda**, was born several months later. At present both Bonnie and Vern work in Red Deer.

STASE MAZIONYTE — by Marjorie Staudinger

Her full name was Stanislova Mazionyte. The diminutive she used should have been pronounced Staas but she was introduced to us as Stashia and it took about six months before she could speak enough English that she could tell us this. We would have called her Staas but she insisted that we continue to say Stashia. The Lithuanian system of designating status is interesting. Although her father's and brother's name was Mazionis, her mother's last name was Maziocyte, denoting a married woman, while all unmarried girls in the family spelled their last name Mazionyte. This was just one of the changes she had to face when she came to Canada. Change and difficulty were not new to Stase and her sister, Elena, by the time they arrived in Red Deer in late October, 1948. It was a sunny Sunday morning when Mrs. Alfred Harstaad, of Bentley, brought Stase to our door. Stase was to work for us and Elena, for Mrs. Harstaad. They were among thousands who came to Canada from the displaced persons' camps in Europe, after the Second World War.

The long years of war lay behind. It had disrupted the peaceful country life of the Mazionis family. When the Soviet army occupied Lithuania, their large home became the headquarters for nine Soviet officers, who moved themselves in with the family. When the German army drove them back life settled down for a short time. When word came that the Soviets were advancing again, many Lithuanians fled from their beloved homeland to become nomads all over Europe for many years. Some of the Mazionis family escaped but Stase saw her brother-in-law's wagon, carrying her parents and other older members of the family, intercepted by soldiers and turned back. It was many years before they were able to get any word from those left behind. While she was with us, Stase got one message that had come by way of Australia. Her parents and brother-in-law were alive. They asked "If any of you are alive, why don't you write?" Many letters had been sent to Lithuania but apparently none had arrived.

Life for those who had escaped became a struggle for survival as they moved from place to place, often by train. A proper bed became a memory. Nights were often spent on the station floor where refugees filled the space, wall to wall. Such was the night when freedom came. They heard the drone of planes, then the bombs then the shouts, "Americans, the Americans!" In her own words, "Many people ran outside, afraid a bomb would hit the station. I looked up and thought — 'If I will be killed, I will be killed wherever I am. If I live, what does it matter . . . the Americans are here!' — and I lay back down. So sweet a sleep I have never had in all my life."

Life in an American refugee camp brought new hope. Those for whom studies had been interrupted, could resume their education. Those whose health permitted, could apply for immigration and jobs in the United States or Canada. They were required to sign contracts, stating that they would work at a specific job for one year, at a wage set by the government of their chosen country. For Stase and Elena Mazionyte, the job was farm domestic. The wage was thirty-five dollars per month. There were reasons for the lower-than-average wage. Many of these people had to learn English after they came. Some of them lacked experience and training.

In some cases, they were actually a liability to their employer.

It was soon apparent that Stase had come to keep her promises. As soon as she arrived she indicated that she wished to help. No amount of sign language would dissuade her. Getting six children ready for church, I had left the breakfast dishes in the sink. I pointed to them and she had them done in no time. On Monday we began in earnest, what was to be a most memorable fourteen months.

Everyone loved Stase but perhaps the baby, Louise, loved her most. Louise was seven months old when Stase came to us. No language barrier hindered their friendship. Louise was content to be sung to in any language, and together they learned English. She developed her own version of Stase's name. It sounded like "Saw-saw".



Stase Mazionyte.

In spite of her happy personality and willingness to please, Stase could be very firm. She could not bring herself to address me as anything but "Madame", nor would she ever enter a door ahead of me. At first, she frequently asked, "What next, Madame?" If I suggested that she rest awhile, she would reply, "I did not come to sit, I came to work." Very soon, I bought knitting needles and yarn. If she would insist on being busy every moment, I would at least try to supply her with something relaxing. From then on she kept her knitting handy and even while she waited for the family to be seated for a meal, she'd pick it up and do a few stitches. Our efforts to make her feel at home with our family and friends did not change her preference to pass her free time in her own way. After the supper dishes were done, she went straight to her room. I believe I understood. Her little room became her sanctuary. A little world of her own in the midst of strangers. There she could read, write, mend, knit for herself . . . or do nothing.

Sometimes we heard the music of her violin, which she had brought from Europe with her.

Though she didn't complain and she wasn't bitter, she told us of the shortage of good food throughout Europe during the war. To waste anything had become very wrong to her. On one occasion, she spilled her glass of milk at a meal. We urged her to have more but she refused. "I have had mine!" she said emphatically.

Amusement and frustration came hand in hand with romance. It seems that some twenty to thirty years earlier, there had been a migration of men from her homeland, who were still single. Word spread quickly of this comely Lithuanian girl, and one by one, they made their presence known. The last straw came when a widower more than twice her age offered to send for all of her family who remained in camps in Germany, if she would become his bride. She told us her answer to him, "I will do all I can do to help them come here, but to sell myself for them, No!" When the gentleman brought her home after this rendezvous, he muttered to Helge, "Who does she think she is . . . the Queen of England?"

Stase had such a strong sense of fairness that it was hard to be fair in return. We soon began to feel guilty that she should work for less than other girls we'd had. When we offered her five dollars a month more, she flatly refused. However, we called on the Home Economist who was in charge of placing these girls. With Miss Smith's permission, she accepted. When her year was up, she agreed to stay until another girl arrived and Helge offered her fifty dollars for each month. She stayed just two months and ten days but when it came to settling up, she adamantly refused more than two full months pay, saying, "You can't afford that but since you promised I will take it."

Stase went from here to Montreal, where she married a young man from her native land. They have a son and daughter, now grown, and have lived in Chicago for a number of years.

ARVIN McCARTY S.W. 31-37-1-5

Arvin Patrick McCarty was born and raised on a farm near Stettler. He spent a happy childhood there with his three brothers and his sister. In 1968 the family moved to Lacombe so the children could have a Christian education at Canadian Union College. After graduating from CUC in 1970, Arvin went to work first at the furniture factory on campus and then he went to British Columbia to work in a saw-mill. Linden, Arvin's brother, was working for Duke Bell so he had Arvin come and join him there on the farm.

Rosemarie, Duke's eldest daughter, spent her childhood in the Marianne district and she used to love the community picnics. She went to school at Sylvan Lake, Canadian Union College and Pacific Union College in California. She came home from school and started working for her father as assistant cook in his road construction business. It was here that she started to go with Arvin. He drove "buggy" and in her free time, Rosemarie liked to ride along with him on that big earthmover. Later she went to work in a real-estate office in Red Deer as a receptionist.

On December 1, 1974, Arvin and Rosemarie were married in Sylvan Lake. After a sun-filled honeymoon in Hawaii, they moved into their mobile home situated on



Arvin and Rosemarie McCarty.

her father's farm. Arvin continues to work for his father-in-law on the farm.

In November, 1976, the McCarty's moved their trailer to the former Bert Fors place in the Centerville district.

L. Z. MEDEARIS **SW 17-38-1-5**

L. Z. Medearis, after coming from United States, lived in the Marianne district for a number of years. His name appears in the minutes of a meeting held in the school in 1918, where he was appointed to a committee to discuss consolidation of the school districts. He had a son **Charlie**, who at one time lived in the Burnt Lake district, and also a son **Eldon**. There were two daughters, **Irene**, and **Cecelia**. After Irene (Mrs. Tidyback) and family, who lived directly north of her father's farm, had left the district, Mr. Medearis lost his home by fire. The Tidyback house was then moved to the Medearis farm for a residence there.

L. Z. Medearis is well remembered for the beautifully dressed poultry and fine vegetables which he loaded into his buggy regularly through the summer months and sold from door to door in Sylvan Lake. His cries could be heard some distance away, announcing his produce. He was well versed in proceedings of the district courts, and on numerous occasions served as his own lawyer.

A couple of amusing happenings from school might be mentioned. Sammy Tidyback, being new in the district, was asked by the teacher what his name was. He replied, "Sam". The teacher also wished the family name, and so Sammy was asked for the rest of his name, whereby he replied, "muel", to the amusement of all pre-

sent. Poor Sammy thought the teacher wanted the rest of his first name. Perhaps it was the same teacher, who made soup at school in a big kettle on top of the furnace, which was shrouded in a huge black jacket or frame. The top of this frame was higher than the furnace, and served well for drying mittens when they got too wet from snow-balling. The soup this day was enjoyed by all, until near the bottom of the soup kettle, something foreign appeared in the soup. It was one of the Medearis children's mitts. Wayne Koures still chuckles when recalling this incident.

Mr. Medearis left the Marianne district sometime in the 40's, going to Illinois, United States, where he passed away at the age of 94 years.

JAMES W. MOSELEY — 1926-27

It was a wonderful year. I was only 18 years old and had been successful in getting the position of teacher at Marianne. How lucky I was! It was only about 18 miles from home with an enrollment of about 15 bright young pupils in grades one, five and eight. In a later school, I had 44 pupils and all eight grades. Then I knew how fortunate I was at Marianne.

I was met at the station, at Sylvan Lake, by Sandy Smith with whom I was to live for the year. He drove me to his home with a team of horses of which he was justly proud. There I met his wife, Ellen, and daughter, Ida (who was to be one of my grade one pupils), and son, Franklin. They made me feel at home immediately, which helped to start the year right.

The first week was a short one. On Friday there was a school fair in Sylvan Lake and all teachers were asked to attend. After the fair I walked home to Red Deer. It had rained and the roads were muddy. No hard-top . . . or even gravel . . . in those days, so no cars came along to give me a ride. This was not to be the only time that fall. I'm sure it rained every week-end . . . either on the Friday before I planned to go home, or on Saturday after I was there. And . . . in winter it snowed! The snow piled up over the fence tops between Smith's and the school and would have blocked the road east if Sandy had not kept it open. He loved hockey and used to tow his car through so that he and I could go to Red Deer to see some of the games. Some time after Christmas, the snow got the better of him and we had to give it up.

The first big event in most schools in those days was the Christmas concert and Marianne was no exception. With Mrs. York's musical assistance, we thought we put on quite a program. We had a very capable chairman in the person of Percy Duffield, well known auctioneer and undertaker, from Sylvan Lake.

In those days we had little in the way of school aids. There were no televisions, no libraries, no overhead projectors and such, that seem so necessary in today's schools. In the fall and spring, we had ONE ball and ONE bat . . . not even a basketball or football. In winter our social activities centered around the big black stove which was characteristic of every rural school. Often the youngsters thawed their sandwiches in it. They also used to play games on the little blackboard space that I could spare for them.

I never met the school board until one day in the spring. Sandy was in great demand for calling square dances so we had gone with bob-sleighs, to the Poplar

Ridge hall. As a result we got home just as one of the members, who lived across the road from Smith's, was going out to do his chores. That afternoon, the whole board came to school to watch me teach!

The school inspector, Mr. A. R. Gibson, tried to visit the school in the fall but got stuck so put off his visit until spring. He was one of the few inspectors I knew who sat down after his visit and went over his report with the teacher. This discussion was really appreciated.

Before I started teaching, I had promised myself that if I didn't warrant an increase of 100 dollars per year, I would move on. In June, I was made an offer of only half that, so I kept my promise.

ANDREW THOMAS MYER — by Christina Mayhew S.W. 12-38-2-5

Dad, Andrew Thomas Myer, known to his friends as Tommy, was born in Kansas and emigrated to Canada with his family when he was a small boy. He grew up in the town of Ponoka.

Mother, born Christina Biswanger, was born in Springhill, Nova Scotia. In 1901 her family came west to Calgary. Her dad had been a fisherman. Mom and Dad were married on Christmas day in 1908 and started farming in the Ponoka area. They lived here for a few years then moved to the Red Deer area and came to the Marianne district about 1907. We lived on the farm with Fred Pion.



Myer family — 1924.

I remember Dad had a wood-sawing outfit. The neighbors came from miles around to have their logs cut for firewood. We children took turns leading the horse around the live horsepower which turned the saw. The horse had to step over the drive shaft. All the children went to school at Marianne. I started school there and my teacher was Delia Fitch.

Ben worked for James Dingman quite a lot so he wasn't home too much. Ernie was also helping neighbors with the harvesting. One day he came home with a high fever. That was the beginning of many sleepless nights for Mother. Ernie had a severe case of diphtheria. The doctor came and vaccinated everyone of us. Some of us got quite sick and he didn't know if it was an attack of diphtheria or a reaction to the vaccination.



Myers family and Fred Pion.

Ernie enlisted in 1939 and went overseas with the Calgary Highlanders. He was killed in April, 1945, two months before the war was over. Joe was also in the army.

From Marianne we moved to the Centerville district. Many happy times were spent at the Thompson home. Our favorite pass time was popping corn over the heater.

Mom and Dad had fourteen children. The youngest, a set of **twins**, born in 1929, lived only three or four weeks. The rest of us included: **Ernie**, killed in action; **Allan**, now deceased; **Ben** who lives in Calgary; **John** of Ponoka. **Viola** Barkley of Duncan, B.C.; **Paul** of Rimbey; **Julia** Bascom of Lethbridge. **Pete** of Edmonton; **Christina** Mayhew of Red Deer; **Eva** Wood of Wynndell, B.C.; **Joe** of Pincher Creek; and **Steve** who lives in Edmonton.

From Centerville we moved to Rocky Mountain House. Dad passed away in 1943. Mom married Fred Pion in 1946. Mom was always very active, enjoying her garden and livestock. In 1962 she married Norman Payne who still lives in Sylvan Lake. She did all her housework until she suffered a stroke at the age of 83. She passed away in 1974.

BRUNO AND ERIKA NAWROT — Pt. 14-38-2-5 — by Erika Nawrot

We have lived in the Marianne District for 18 years. We owned the Cosy Corner Cafe in Sylvan Lake for about one year before buying our present home. We fell in love with the high spruce trees surrounding the house which was the former Kuores home place. Just two weeks after moving out in January, 1959, friends and neighbours gave us a very lovely housewarming party, a nice welcome. Gradually we started out to renovate the house, put water and sewer in, and planted trees and hedges to our liking.

We had come to Canada in 1953, arriving in Calgary on Stampede opening day. The country of our birth was Germany. Erika was born in Berlin and had lived there until their emigration. Her mother was born in a coastal town on the Baltic Sea. Her father was born in Thorn, a town which was at the time of his birth in German territory, but belongs now to Poland. Bruno was born in Posen, now Poznan, also belonging to Poland. The towns of birth of Bruno's mother and father belong now to Poland, but belonged to Germany when they were born.



Nawrot family — 1976.

Some distant relatives, mostly cousins, still live over there, but they do not speak German and we do not speak Polish, so we cannot communicate any more. In Berlin, Bruno still has a brother and a sister. For Erika there are no living relatives anymore. Her parents passed away in 1944-45.

Our decision to leave family and friends was surely not an easy one but we felt that Berlin, which is surrounded by East German territory, would always be a trouble spot, just an isolated island. The West would support Berlin, but the East, which is under the influence, or (better said) pressure of Russia, would like to overtake the whole of Berlin if possible. So, this part, West Berlin, would always stay a place of certain insecurity because it is a pawn and playball of the Great Powers, U.S.A. and Russia.

We had lost all our possessions and business during an air raid on Berlin in one night, in November, 1943. The very little we had saved we brought to Bruno's mother who lived in a small town close to the Polish border. There we lived for a short time until everything was lost again when Polish and Russian troops advanced and took over. We had been very, very lucky to have left just a few weeks earlier from Berlin, because we had escaped horrible atrocities which were committed by the invading troops. (This is not heresay, but proven by documents and books).

It took quite some adjusting to the Canadian way of life. It was very easy for our eleven-year-old son, **Udo**, but a little harder for us adults, but we wanted to make a new life for ourselves. We met so many nice and helpful people which made our liking for Canada so much easier. After the required five years of being a "landed immigrant", we applied for citizenship, which was granted in 1959. It was a very impressive ceremony at the Red Deer courthouse, followed by a warm welcome by the Ladies of the I.O.D.E. at the Knox Presbyterian Church.

It surely was a great change from Germany for Erika who had been in the business of her parents as a druggist and Bruno had been a police inspector with the Berlin Police Investigation Department. Well, in Canada we had to take any job which came along in order to make a living. Our various jobs included: a sandwich girl, clean-

ing woman, cement-finisher, construction worker, bartender, coffee-shop owner, farmer. We have been very lucky to be able to manage all the ups and downs well.

We enjoy our organic garden, the flowers, and keeping up the yard. At one time we raised rabbits for sale, but now we just sell eggs. We live now quietly, content and happy, hoping for many more good years together.

OSCAR NORBY — N.E. 12-38-2-5

Mr. Slack used to say that Mrs. Oscar Norby was the most beautiful woman he had ever seen. It was 1901 when Oscar and Olga Elizabeth Norby came to homestead in what was to be Marianne. Their seven children — **Walter, May, Pearl, Ruth, Esther, Andrew and Edward** — were all born there.

When the Marianne school was built, Mr. Norby was one of the first trustees, and Walter, one of the first students. All of them started school there, and all but the younger ones finished there, as well. A favorite teacher of the older ones was Miss Cora Petro, now Mrs. Mustard of Edmonton. May still keeps in touch with her.

After several years on the homestead, the Norbys moved to higher ground, on the quarter immediately east. Here Mr. Norby built for the second time. The homestead was later bought by a Mrs. Haggith. She never lived on it but rented it, first to the Latams, then to August Johnson, and last to Alex Staudinger, who cleared and broke much of it before he bought it in 1929.

Mr. Norby is remembered for the windbreaks he planted. On the homestead, it was a long row of Balm and Spruce. His extensive planting on the new place included Manitoba Maple and Mountain Ash.

In 1926, the family moved to Burnt Lake and more of their story will be found in that community's history.

CHARLIE OHLAND — N.W. 13-38-2-5

The Charlie Ohland family had lived for a time on the Ooster place at Sylvan Lake, before moving to Marianne in the early twenties. In Marianne they farmed the Harry Bleay place. Their son **Robert** was with them when they came. Two more sons, **Harvey** and **Roy**, were born at Marianne. Grandma Kuores brought them into the world.

The original house having burned, the Ohlands had a new one built by a well known Finnish carpenter, Mr. Kopsala. That house remained there until 1944, when Gust Olson bought it from Helge Staudinger, who then owned the place. Gust moved it directly south, where he dismantled it and used the lumber in the new home he and Lillian were building.

In 1928 the Ohlands moved "lock, stock, and barrel" to the Peace River country. They went by rail to the town of Peace River. Then came the long winding cruise along the river on the "D. A. Thomas," a flat-bottomed stern-wheeler, to Taylor Flats, British Columbia. From there they went by wagon to what is now Baldonnel. Here Charlie Ohland took a homestead. The family farmed there until 1951, when Mr. and Mrs. Ohland moved to Hudson Hope, where he trapped and worked in the mines until 1960, when he suffered a stroke. Following this, Mr. and Mrs. Ohland moved to the Sunset Home in Fort St. John. Mr. Ohland passed away there in 1975, at the age

of 83. Mrs. Ohland remains at the Home where she is near her sons, Robert and Roy and their families.

Robert left the farm in 1940, and went to work as a mechanic in Fort St. John. This work he continued for 32 years. Leaving the "monkey wrenching" behind, he went into water well-drilling, which he is presently doing.

Bob and his wife, the former Mildred Vause, have raised a family of two sons and five daughters. They are Robert Ernest, Sheila Karen, Lea Sharon, Patricia Grace, Joy Anne, Teresa May and Gordon Melvin. All but the youngest are married.

Harvey Ohland spent a little time at Marianne in the fall of 1940, when he worked on the Hilman's threshing crew, shortly after which he joined the Air Force. After the war, he started a garage and implement dealership in Simcoe, Ontario. Harvey married Lois Palmerson and they have three grown daughters, Kristie, Karen and Jane.

Roy Gerald is married to Anne Konowalyk. They have two sons and two daughters, Shirley Anne, Gerald Wayne, Dennis Roy and Thelma Jean.

Roy bought the farm at Baldonnel from his father in 1951. He and his family continue to farm there.

Neighbors of the Ohlands at Fort St. John were the Clifford Dingmans who lived across the road from them at Marianne, and moved up there about the same time.

GUSTAF OLSON S.W. 13-38-2-5

Gustaf Olson was born in Stockholm, Sweden, in 1898. He was a trucker by trade. In 1929 he came to Canada and spent a year in Saskatchewan. Before coming to Marianne he lived with some friends in Hespero. It was while he was working for John Johnson in this district that he met and married Lillian Valli. For several years they lived on the Valli home farm.

When Curt, their son, was five, he had a unique means of transportation. He would hitch either his dog, or his billy goat, sometimes both together and go visiting, to either the Britton place or the Mannerfeldts. After lunch he'd go home again.



Curt Olson with wife Evelyn and family.



Marcelene with Grandpa and Grandma Olson.

The Olsons had quite a scare one day. Curt was going with the tractor to do some field work for his dad. He hit loose gravel next to the ditch and the tractor flipped, pinning him underneath. The neighbors shovelled the dirt from underneath and were able to get Curt out.

Gust and Lillian enjoyed their farming and then their retirement. Gust passed away in 1976.

They had one son, **Curt**. He married the former Evelyn Dauphanais of Weyburn, Saskatchewan. The couple have three girls and live in Calgary.

ANDREW (PARVI) PARVIAINEN S.W. 25-38-2-5

The long Finnish names sometimes proved an inconvenience in an English-speaking world so many of them were shortened. Hence came the change, from Parviainen to Parvi.

Born in Finland in 1855, Andrew Parvi came first to Michigan. From there, he and his wife Greeta moved through North and South Dakota before immigrating to Alberta. It was the last week of March, 1900, when they, with their five children, traveled in company with the Peter Wetelainen family, from Kulm, North Dakota, to Red Deer by train. It was mid-April before the Red Deer River could be forded with wagons and those belongings they had brought. They rented a railroad building, where the wives and children stayed for two weeks, while the men went out to the "promised land" they had read about in a Finnish newspaper, and filed on homesteads west of (Snake) Sylvan Lake. These two families were the first to settle in what later became a largely Finnish settlement.

The Parvis were fortunate to have horses shipped from North Dakota to Red Deer, where they acquired a wagon. They spent another few weeks at Burnt Lake while a log cabin was erected on their land. A larger home was built that summer and the log cabin became the temporary abode of many newcomers in the next few years.

Andrew Parvi was instrumental in getting the first school built in the Sylvan Lake area. It was the original Kuusamo School. The site, purchased from the C.P.R. for ten dollars was located in the north-west corner of S.W. 25-38-2-5. The B. C. Learned family later bought the whole south half of that section. It was best known

for many years as the Harry Bennet place and is now owned by Arthur Severtson and Duke Bell. The school was re-located some miles north-west.

Mr. Parvi was one of the original members of the Kuusamo school board and some of the earliest teachers were boarded in their home. In a letter from Edward Parvi of Battle Ground, Washington, he mentions one teacher in particular, whom he remembered, "Plain as day, an older man with a beard who looked like an old time prospector" but he did not recall any names. The Parvi land became a part of the Marianne school district when it was formed in 1910.

In 1904, Mr. Parvi sold his land to Alexander Kinnunen Senior for the grand sum of four dollars an acre. The family returned to Kulm, North Dakota, remaining there until 1911, when they moved to Vancouver, Washington. Mr. Parvi passed away there in 1942 at the age of 87, having been predeceased by his wife some years earlier. Their family are as follows: **Jalmar**: born in Michigan, passed away at Brush Prairie, Washington, in 1973. **Jemina**: born in Menahga, Minnesota. **Edward**: born in South Dakota, now residing at Battle Ground, Washington. **Miriam**: born at Kulm, North Dakota, now residing in Portland, Oregon. **Jonas**: born at Kulm, North Dakota, passed away at Vancouver, Washington in November, 1965. **Hilda**: born at Sylvan Lake, Alberta, now living in Chicago, Illinois.

THE WILLIAM PILLER FAMILY Part N.W. 19-38-1-5 — by Joyce Piller

William (Bill) Piller was born at Evergreen, Alberta, on January 27, 1929. His parents, James and Ann Piller, came to the Evergreen district to farm in 1928. They had four children: Rose, Bill, Frank and George. Mrs. Piller died in 1936 and Mr. Piller in 1956.

Joyce Coderre was born in Thorsby on April 25, 1933, to Sylvester (Doc) and Laura Coderre. They were blessed with eleven children: Arnold, Alice, Donald, William, Gordon, Grace, Joyce, Jean, Marie, Harold, and Norma. In 1939 they moved to Medicine Hat. Mrs. Coderre passed away in 1942 and Mr. Coderre in 1962.

In July of 1968, Bill and I purchased the Walter Seida acreage. This acreage was part of N.W. 19-38-1-5 quarter which belonged to Bill and Harvey Pass. At the time of buying we were living in the town of Sylvan Lake.

We have five children. **Gordon** is going to school in Pasadena, California. He received his Certified General Accountants degree in September, 1976. **Cindy** is in



William Piller family.

College in Red Deer taking Elementary Education. **Leslie, Joyce Ann and Sharon** are still in school at Sylvan Lake.

Having grown up in town, our children thought the acreage was heaven. The C.P.R. tracks, built up on a high grade many years before, ran right by the house. The engineer, a man from West Park in Red Deer, was a very friendly fellow. Every morning on his way to Rocky Mountain House and again when he returned to Red Deer in the evening he would toot his whistle and wave to the children. This was the highlight of their day. About two weeks later, the engineer started throwing the Albertan down to the kids. The children would be waiting and tried to see who would get to the paper first. This went on for about a year and then the train stopped going by so often, finally dwindling down to about once every three months. The children really missed this kind old gentleman.

In 1969, Bill went to work for Duke Bell and continued to work for Duke for the next seven years.

In 1970, our youngest child, Sharon, started school and I went to work, together with Mrs. Helen Grimson, at the school as Sylvan Lake's first teachers' aides. In October, 1971, I started work at the Sylvan Lake News Office and in December of 1973, I took over as Editor.

In June of 1976, we sold our acreage to Ron Simanton of Lacombe and we bought a new home in Sylvan Lake and Bill started his own business, "Pillers' Backhoe Service", which he had longed to do for some time.

GUS PODRIDSKI — S.E. 13-38-2-5

Gus was born and grew up on a farm west of Millet, Alberta. From there his dad moved to a farm north of Red Deer, and Gus helped on the farm. He began working for the Canadian Pacific Railroad when he was still a teenager. In the autumn of 1964 he saw Kinnunen's farm advertised for sale. He always had a hankering to own a farm and he bought this quarter on October 4, 1964. He



Gus Podridski.

enjoys spending his week-ends and holidays on the farm. On working days he is yard foreman for the C.P.R. in Red Deer.

RASMUSSEN

The Rasmussen family lived on S.E. 10-38-2-5 after the Peacocks left the district. They had four sons, **Hans, Chris, Earnest, and Sam**. They did not live long in the area, and it is not known where they went after leaving Marianne. William Bieraugels moved to the house after the Rasmussens.

ALVIN ROBINSON — N.W. 11-38-2-5

Mr. Alvin P. Robinson better known as "Slim", lives in the Marianne district on what used to be the Walter Kuores farm.



Slim and Betty Robinson.



Robinson girls — Jean, Margaret, Janet and Christine.

He served in the Second World War, and while in England he married the former Elizabeth Ann Burgess in 1945.

They have four daughters; Mrs. **Christine** Nothof of Sylvan Lake, Mrs. **Janet** McCrady of Brooks, Mrs. **Margaret** Knopp of Condor, and **Jean** Robinson at home. They have one granddaughter, Tracy Diane Knopp of Condor.

Christine works in the Bank at Sylvan Lake, and Janet as a horticultural technician at the Brooks Horticultural Research Station. Margaret is on the farm at Condor, and Jean is still going to school at Sylvan Lake.

LEONARD JOHN ROWAN FAMILY — by Phyllis Cannon and Enid Sharpe S.E. 18-38-1-5

Leonard John Rowan, eldest of four children born to a pioneer couple, Jo and Isabella Rowan of Thessalon, Ontario, arrived October 22, 1888. While he was a young lad, the family lived at Sault St. Marie, Ontario, where his father worked on the locks on the Great Lakes. When Leonard was eleven years old, they moved to a bush farm three miles from Thessalon. It was a life which entailed much hard labor clearing land and helping to make a living for the family. He and his father worked in the lumber camps during the winter, where Leonard had to get up at 2 a.m. in order to drive a team and water tank to ice the roads for the logging teams to haul on. For this he received \$1.75 per day. When he was seventeen he headed west to Lemberg, Saskatchewan, where an uncle lived, but after six months he returned to his home at Thessalon. Being a person who worked with horses, it would seem natural that he would start a livery business in Thessalon. He built this into a thriving business which he ran for five years.

On August 14, 1912, he married a lovely young lady, Elva Elmira King, who was born and raised in the same area only a mile or so from his home. They were both 23. Life was good for a few months, then tragedy struck the young couple. One night the livery barn and all the horses save one were lost in a devastating fire, which completely broke them. The following July, 1913, their first child, William Arthur Bernard, was born.

Faced with family responsibilities and not having the heart to start over, Leonard felt the pull of the west again. He left his young wife and son in the safe care of her parents, while he went to Port Arthur to haul ties for the railroad. That was not a lucrative business so he moved on to Winnipeg, and then on to Mortilac, Saskatchewan, with only \$20.00 in his pocket. Transportation consisted of riding freights, walking, and ox team. He worked for a farmer for a few weeks, but was not satisfied he was where he wanted to be, so he kept moving west, and when he reached Calgary he knew that was for him.

That summer of 1915, he worked for the 3G ranch. The work was hard and the hours long for \$35.00 per month. When he asked for more pay the boss objected, so he quit and it wasn't long before he met another rancher, Syd Fellows, of Nightingale. He fed cattle for him that winter and learned something of the western life. This man proved to be a friend and benefactor as he backed Leonard when he started on his own. Things went well, so he sent for his wife and son. From there they went to a bigger place at Redlands where they farmed for five

years. During this time two daughters, Enid Gertrude and Phyllis Margaret joined the family.

1928 saw the start of the depression and the prairies were looking bad so Leonard moved his family to Drumheller. Always one to be able to turn his hand to something else, he went to work with a bunch of horses at East Coulee and completed the first mine spur for the coal business there. The following spring, 1929, he heard of a road contract at Sylvan Lake so he moved the family there. He completed many road contracts around the area. Another daughter, Elizabeth Isabelle, was added to the family.

Times were really difficult as these were the dirty thirties. To keep his family he did many things: farmed in summer, did bush work in winter, spent 20 winters working for Atlas Lumber Co. out of Rocky Mountain House; but he was always proud of the fact he never took relief.

In the spring of 1934, the family moved a short distance of four miles south-west of Sylvan Lake to a quarter-section in the Marianne district. Here the children grew up enjoying many happy times. Enid and Phyllis enjoyed the girls' ball team, while all four participated in plays, singing and community activities.

The 20 years spent on the farm and in the bush are reviewed by daughter Enid. The winter of 1929-30 was spent in the lumber woods at Harlech working for Charlie Pettifer, where Dad took out two million feet of



L.-R. — Gertrude, Elva (Mrs. L. Rowan), Enid, Minnie and Jo King. Cost of Enid and Elva's dresses — 95 cents.

timber. The next summer Dad stayed home and grew a fantastic garden which my brother Arthur peddled. He could sell refrigerators to Eskimos. Dad also rebuilt the Sylvan Lake-Bentley road. It was such an open fall that they were moving dirt on Christmas day and completed the road that season. That same winter, Dad hauled firewood across Sylvan Lake with four-horse teams, and the following spring put in all the streets and boulevards in Bentley which are still there today. From there the outfit went to Riley on construction where there were 60 to 80 head of horses in the corrals all summer.

The next few years Dad farmed the "Falkner place" and rented Louis Johnson's farm in the Marianne district. Crops were good but prices were poor — barley was 9¢ per bushel. He shipped out a carload of oats at 17¢ per bushel. Mom raised turkeys and dressed them for the hotel and received two dollars per bird.

One winter Dad bought the Pettifer Mill and buildings for 300 dollars. He took two men and wrecked these buildings, bringing them out to Sylvan Lake in sections. He erected three houses at Sylvan Lake. John Holsworth came into their camp to hunt big game; being unsuccessful, he left his gun with Paddy Bell. Dad came home for Christmas and when he went back Paddy had contacted buck fever and, lo and behold, the long table in the cook house was covered with moose meat, a bull and cow and a calf. It was too cold for game wardens but Dad was worried because the toughest game warden in Alberta was just seven miles away. Grant Cameron came in for a load of lumber so the moose was loaded in the front of the truck and lumber piled on top. Many Sylvan Laker's had good moose steak for awhile. These two men, Paddy Bell and Jimmy McDonald worked all winter and received as their pay a house and lot in Sylvan Lake. Dad bought three lots from Mrs. Wilkinson for 25 dollars a piece. Andy Murray lived in one of these houses for many years. It is still standing today.

In the early 1930's Dad butchered cattle for George Hays butcher shop at Sylvan Lake, as well as running a summer dairy. Milk was sold for 12 quarts for one dollar. My brother Arthur and I drove the milk wagon, to which was hitched a big Clyde horse who knew better where to



L. J. Rowan — bush boss.

go then we did. Dad and Dave Bunce broke 20 dry mares for Mr. Mott. These half broken horses were sold at an auction sale at the farm in Marianne, which Dad had recently bought from Mrs. Madden for 18 dollars. per acre — SE 18-38-1-5. Dairying and butchering continued with Dave Bunce peddling the meat. The end of the butchering business came when Dave collected all the money, got into a poker game and lost it all. And it was the end of the dairying, too, when Dad lost 50 or 60 tons of hay in a fire on Burnt Lake. I was glad to see the end of the dairying as Dad and I had to get up at four o'clock and milk 24 cows by hand; and then I drove four miles to Sylvan Lake to peddle the milk. I was alone as Arthur spent that entire summer in hospital.

Sometimes Dad made good money, cutting nine to 12 million feet of lumber each winter; at other times, as he put it, "he lost his shirt". "Cats" and trucks gradually displaced the horses.

One fall Dad went to Strachan where he logged the Hudson's Bay section. He also sawed the lumber in this camp as he had his own mill at this time. This camp was on Prairie Creek. Phyllis and I were cooking in this camp when one morning Dad called us and said, "Wake up, but don't get out of bed", as the water was just below our mattress. Prairie Creek had flooded in the night. We cooked breakfast on the sawdust pile that morning; even the pigs swam over to be on something dry.

One summer Dad was asked to move the German prisoner of war camp down to saw out the previous winter's cut. The German prisoners of war were sour and wouldn't work. Dad found out that they were given credits to buy things with. These credits had not been honored by the previous foreman so Dad raised their wages by 50¢ per day and let them buy things with their credits. They were good workers and kept their camp and themselves spotless. Dad still has a writing desk they made him out of a pine log with a plane, a knife and a hammer. The clerk was the son of the ambassador to the United States before war broke out. Dad received letters from many of these boys for years after they returned to Germany.

One move was to camp ten back of Jack Brownings' ranch. This was a well-situated camp as the water ran freely from springs in the hills and was piped to cookery and bunk houses, then on down to the horse troughs and barns on a lower bend of land. I was pastry cook at this camp for 110 men. I made 40 pies, 25 loaves of bread, many dozen cookies and eight large cakes, a day. Dad was foreman here and had a contract for hauling and skidding. My husband, Jim Sharpe, was first-aid man for the camps. That winter Dad had his leg broken. Jim set it so well that the doctors did not reset it after the long trip from camp to Red Deer. Dad had men work for him for many years so there was much speculation as to whom Dad would choose as foreman. When Dad said "you run it, Jim", 17 men quit the first morning. Things settled down, however, and this proved to be one of Dad's most profitable years.

Mother's health began to fail at this time, so bush work ceased. It was also impossible for Mom to stay at the farm, so a suite was rented at Sylvan Lake. The farm was sold the next summer to Bell's for 9,500 dollars. The barn and house were demolished and ten acres frontage

was sold. Dad and Mom built a house in Sylvan Lake where they resided until Mom's passing in 1959.

Dad bought a backhoe and got a contract to haul fill from the school yard and built up the park along the lakeshore. Sewers and basements were dug and he employed four to five men as he also had a gravel pit with crusher. The gravel pit was leased from Lutz on the Red Deer River. To handle this work, Dad graduated from the horse (which had always been his stock in trade) to two cats, one bulldozer and a loader. This took care of the '60's. Men became harder to get so Dad phased out the construction business. He then began to build another house on his five-acre property. He has three houses now, two of which he rents. As he says, "I am **not** retired." he is now busy with real estate. He is knee deep in subdivision of his property. One acre of the five was sold to Art Becker who built a lumber yard on said property. The surveyors are now busy surveying seventeen lots. Dad has always grown a good garden and can still hoe rings around any of us. He came to our farm and dug all our potatoes in 1975. We harvested forty bushels.

Leonard Rowan says of his life. "I went broke two or three times in my life time. I may have been down but never out and that's what has kept me going."

The children are as follows: **Arthur** married Astrid Larsen of Sylvan Lake. He died in 1962. **Enid** married James Sharpe of the Oklahoma district, 12 miles west of Innisfail. To this couple were born five children, Elva, Jo-Anne, Robert, Heather and Susan. Jo-Anne married Garry Didrikson of Red Deer and they have two sons, Michael and Warren. Robert married Florence Maglio of Nelson, British Columbia, and they have one son Curtis. Heather was married to Allan Cragg of Edmonton on the 14th of August, 1976. (August 14 was Mr. and Mrs. Rowan's wedding day). **Phyllis** married Nevill Cannon and they had three sons, Graham, Lorne and Randy. Nevill died in 1962. Graham married Rhonda Poffinroth of Calgary and they have one son Joel. Lorne married Sheila Booth of Irricana. Randy is not married. **Isabelle** married Danny Moore of Red Deer and they have three children, Danielle, Darrell and Brent. Danielle and Darrell, the twins, are in University, and Brent is at home.

EDWIN SAWYER — N.E. 24-2-5

Ed and Flora Sawyer and small son, Gary, moved to the old Dingman place in 1939. Both were already well known in Marianne as Flora Heikkinen had grown up just a few miles north and Ed had lived south of Sylvan Lake, on the Hagerman place. A daughter, Nina, was born to them at Marianne. In 1949, they bought a farm in the Forshee district and farmed very successfully for about 20 years. They still make their home there but the land is farmed by someone else. They were blest with two more children after moving to Forshee. **Dianne** is married to Brian Lenz, well known farmer, hockey player and coach, of Bentley. **David** and his wife are also at Bentley where David is in business for himself. **Gary** and Ruth Sawyer and family farm in the Leedale district and **Nina**, who was widowed several years ago, lives in Edmonton. Her family are grown.

Edwin Sawyer was born on Tooke's Hill, Battle Ground, Washington and came to Alberta with his family as a young boy. They first settled in the wilderness area

west of Rimbey. In 1916, they moved to farm at Joffre. The third generation is still farming on that location.

Ed is a lover of music and is right handy with the fiddle and the bow. Dwight Sawyer, popular fiddler from Burnt Lake is a brother.

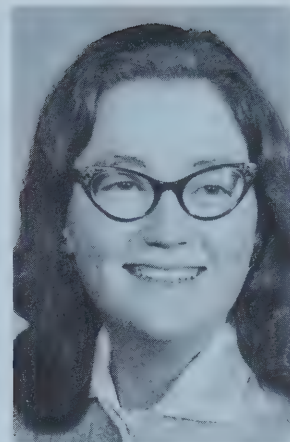
GEORGE SEE N.W. 13-38-2-5

George See, born in 1906, was a lad of six when he emigrated with his parents from Missouri to a homestead at Rowley, Alberta. At the age of eighteen, he left home to seek his fortune. He worked for several years on various farms around Lacombe and Joffre. Then he met and married Countess Peters. She was a daughter of Dave Peters, a section foreman for the Canadian National Railway stationed at Joffre. Countess was born in North Dakota. She was only six months old when her parents came to Nanton where her father worked as a ranch foreman. From here they moved to Ferrier, west of Rocky Mountain House. The ill health of Mrs. Peters forced them to leave the high country. This was when they settled in Joffre. Mrs. Peters passed away here and Mr. Peters was transferred to Elspeth. Here he married Alma Abramson. She still lives in Sylvan Lake.

Mr. and Mrs. See moved to the Marianne district in 1934. It was during the dirty thirties and money was scarce. It took a lot of hard work and sweat to put up a load of wood which was sold for \$1.00 in town. A hundred pound bag of flour, on the other hand, cost \$1.95.



Back — Mervin, Harold and Earl. Front — George, Gale, and Mrs. See.



Shannon See.

Mervin, their oldest son, started school in Marianne. The Britton children usually walked across the fields and went with Mervin to school. One day when Mervin and Jack were in grade one, Jack came to See's to find Mervin sick in bed. Suddenly Jack, too, was sick. Mrs. See told him to hop into bed. She promptly gave both boys a dose of castor oil. That was the last time Jack was sick at the See home. With no radio, games were played to amuse the younger children. A Mr. Buckley came to the door one day and who should answer his knock but someone dressed in overalls complete with mustache and hat. He stood and stared and completely forgot his errand.

Four years later the family moved to Drumheller. They are now retired. Five children completed their family. **Mervin**, lives in Calgary and works for Kraft Foods of Canada. **Earl** passed away in 1967. His widow and four children live in Red Deer. **Harold** lives in Drumheller and is a unit officer at the Penitentiary. **Gale** is a barber at Claresholm. **Shannon** (Mrs. Bob Brennand) lives in Drumheller.

WALTER SEIDA Pt. N.W. 19-38-1-5

Walter Seida grew up on a farm and enjoyed country living. He bought this acreage from the Pass brothers. With the help of friends, he built a lovely home for his family. He was an employee of Calgary Power at Sylvan Lake. **Lorie**, his daughter lives with her mother at Innisfail; **Kevin** lives with Walter at Thorhild.

GERALD SHEBECK — by Denise Shebeck

Gerald and Denise came to live at Sylvan Lake two weeks after they were married, June, 1973. Gerald is from Lignite, North Dakota, and Denise from North Portal, Saskatchewan. Gerald worked for his uncle, Duke Bell, on the farm and lived there in his yard. Later he worked for his uncle on road construction. They bought a small trailer so they could move it to some of the jobs. In April, 1976, they began working for Diet Ammeter and moved the trailer to his yard. They have one son, **David**.



Gerald and Denise Shebeck and family.

WILLIAM SHEPHERD — S.E. 12-38-2-W5

William Shepherd was born in England, near London. He came to Canada and homesteaded near Wisetown, Saskatchewan after World War I.

Later he came out to the Evarts district and farmed with his father, Reverend Shepherd who was a minister. It was while Beatrice Nicholas was staying with Mrs. F. M. Hodges, (Bill's sister), that love blossomed and Bill and Beatrice were married around 1927, settling on a quarter of land in Marianne district. This they farmed until 1952, when Duke Bell bought their quarter and they retired to Red Deer.

They had one chosen daughter, **Joyce**. Will Shepherd was a quiet, unassuming man and never worried about things. During threshing time he always said to the threshing boss, "come when you can". Most of the time his waiting paid off, as he usually had a dry crop. His crops and the raspberry patch were the envy of the neighborhood. Mr. and Mrs. Shepherd are both deceased.

JOHN WALTON WILLIAM SLACK — NW 22-38-2-5

John Walton William Slack was born March 30, 1873, near Dunrobin County of Carleton, Ontario. He came west in the early 90's, homesteading near Benalto. He went back to Ontario and some years later returned to the area, homesteading in the Marianne district on the above land. With little formal education and no secretarial training, he held the posts of secretary, treasurer, collector, and assessor. He was secretary of Kuusamo school district almost continually from 1902-1919, secretary of Marianne from 1910-1919, also secretary of Melita school district, and secretary for the Local Improvement District. He served on the board of directors in 1918 for the Evarts Presbyterian church. Wilf Slack was a quiet, honest, helpful man. He surprised all his neighbors when he left in June, 1908, to go meet a brother. Mr. D. B. Learned came upon him in Red Deer and noted he was accompanied by a beautiful lady. When

Walt introduced him to his bride, Annie, Mr. Learned said, "I must say you have a beautiful brother".

Annie Neelie was born July 23, 1882, in Dunrobin, Ontario, also. She came west in 1908 where she and Mr. Slack were married. The Slack hospitality was known by many throughout the district. Mrs. Slack helped her husband diligently with his various secretarial jobs. Failing health caused him to resign these posts, and on January 30, 1923, at 49 years of age, Mr. Slack passed away from pernicious anemia. Interment followed in Winnipeg. J. W. W. Slack's father was Henry Slack, and he had a brother T. H. Slack, both of Winnipeg.

The Slacks attended church at Evarts, where Rev. McKecknie ministered to the people. Leonard Boucher, a



Mr. and Mrs. J. W. W. Slack Aug. 9, 1922.



Seated, Mrs. Warwick. Standing — Mr. and Mrs. Slack.

nephew of the Slacks lived with them while teaching at Evarts, riding his horse each day the five miles or more. He later joined the armed services during the war. Other guests in the Slack home were Doris Martin and her father. Doris' older sister also stayed with the Slacks at one time.

After Mr. Slack's death, Mrs. Slack left the district, and September 14, 1925, Annie Slack married William G. Jamieson at Delburne and lived at Delburne, Alberta, until her death on October 11, 1950. Interment followed in Winnipeg.

THE JACOB STAUDINGER FAMILY S.W. 18-38-1-5

There was no school nearby when Jack and Hilma Staudinger moved to their homestead from Frederick, South Dakota. It was 1901 and marked the end of formal education for their three older children, William, eleven, **Hilma**, nine, and Jack Junior, seven. **Flora** was but a baby. They built their first home on the homestead, later buying the S.E. quarter of section 13, directly west of the homestead. They had a new home built there by one of our best known pioneer carpenters, Karl Soderlund. Both houses remain standing today but neither has been lived in for many years.

Mrs. Staudinger and the family remained in the new home for some years following Jack's untimely death in 1908 at age 46.

In 1910 she sold two acres in the S.W. corner of that place to the newly formed Marianne School board. The first classes of the Marianne School were held in her old house until the schoolhouse could be built. Flora Staudinger was among the first students.

When the boys left home and she could no longer farm, she moved into Sylvan Lake where she lived until her passing in the 1940's.

Both **Bill** and **Jack Junior** traveled about and worked at various jobs in their youth. Jack died at Brockett, North Dakota in 1925, at age 31.

Bill was married in Medicine Hat and his only child was born there in 1918. He rarely spoke of it to anyone and what had become of his wife and child remained a mystery until after his death. After working in the mines at Crowsnest, beginning a log cabin near his childhood home and leaving it unfinished, he traveled to Russia, spent some time in Trail, British Columbia and eventually settled down to batching at Sylvan Lake. A good carpenter and cabinet-maker, he kept thus employed. He also did custom saw-filing. In 1960, at the age of 70, he underwent surgery for lung cancer and passed away on the operating table.

One lovely summer day in 1974, a middle-aged gentleman arrived at Marianne Farms, the home of Russell and Harvey Staudinger. Their sister Louise was alone at the house. She was a bit taken aback when he announced, "I am the son of August Staudinger." Believing that all of her father's Uncle August's sons were dead, bewilderment showed in her expression. Seeing this, the gentleman produced his birth certificate. Upon reading that his father was August William Staudinger, she regained her composure asking, "Could you mean Bill Staudinger?" He had heard that his father had been called Bill but thought maybe he was known by his first name to others. Only five years earlier, he had located

old papers left by his mother. It could only be concluded that his mother, Agnes Ingeborg Holappa, had married August William Staudinger against her parents' wishes. Following her father's death at Medicine Hat, her mother had the marriage annulled and took her 14-year-old daughter and infant grandson back to Michigan from whence they had come. The young mother later married a Mr. Belmore. She had told her son, Henry, that his real name was Staudinger but never revealed anything more. He grew up imagining that his father had deserted his mother and him. Upon entering the Armed Service in World War II, he chose to have his name legally changed to Belmore as he had always been known as Henry Belmore. His visit with the Staudingers here was the end of a rainbow of hope that he'd harboured all his life; that he might some day find his "other family". Henry (Staudinger) Belmore has been a guard in the Michigan State Correctional Institute at Marquette for many years. He and his wife Sylvia have a son and a daughter, both married, and one grandchild.

Hilma, eldest daughter of Jack and Hilma Staudinger, was married to Frank Palm. They farmed 10 miles north of Eckville but Frank was restless. He sold everything, left Hilma and the children with her mother at Sylvan Lake and went to Portland, Oregon. He never kept his promise to send for her and the children as soon as he could earn enough money. After some years in Oregon, he went to Russia. Word of his death there has come through a visitor from Russia. Hilma's eldest, Florence, eventually went to Portland where she became a nurse and married Dr. Kuhn, an eye, ear, nose and throat specialist. Her death, of a stroke, in her forties, was a shock. The Kuhns had a son and a daughter.

Hilma's second, **Harold Palm**, was somewhat of his father's vagabond nature. Though married, he didn't remain in one place long. At his death in an occupational accident in Seattle, Washington, he left one married daughter who lives on Vancouver Island.

Hilma's younger son and daughter, **Garnett and Frances**, live in Nanaimo, British Columbia, where Hilma lived for many years with her second husband, John Mackie. After his passing she spent several years in a nursing home until her passing in 1974 at the age of 82. Garnett has four children but Frances has none.

Flora, the youngest child of Jack and Hilma Senior married Oscar Salonen of Sylvan Lake. She passed away there very young, of cancer. Her one son, **Allen Salonen** is retired from the R.C.A.F. and lives, with his wife and family, at Westbank, British Columbia. Allen lived much of his early life with his Grandmother Staudinger at Sylvan Lake.

VICTOR STAUDINGER N.W. 18-38-1-5

It was 1902 when Victor Staudinger and his brothers, Alex and Alfred, arrived to take up the homesteads that their older brother Jack had located for them. Victor's quarter was directly north of Jack's own homestead. However, he discovered very soon that he was not too much in love with homesteading and he never did stay long enough to prove his land. After working for several years in the mines at Crowsnest, he returned to the U.S. with his wife and son who was born there.

ALFRED GEORGE STAUDINGER
N.W. 10-39-2-5

Alfred, who was the youngest brother, homesteaded in the Kuusamo district. However, during his years in the area, he lived quite a bit with his brother Alex in the Marianne district.

One winter, Alex, Alfred and J. Lassila, whose homestead was at Benalto, batched together in Alex's log cabin — no doubt, one way to beat the loneliness as well as the cost of living. Through the winter they did quite a bit of fishing in Sylvan Lake. While cleaning the fish, the heads and such were thrown into a heap which soon became frozen and covered with snow. When spring came, Mr. Lassila's little dog, Timo, discovered them. One day when Alfred was home alone, he heard Timo begging to come in. Opening the door, he found Timo with a fish head in his mouth. Timo trotted past him and to his master's bed, where he carefully buried his treasure. Obviously, young men have always enjoyed a bit of fun, so Alfred obediently opened the door for Timo each time he wanted to pass through. When Mr. Lassila prepared for bed that night, Timo stood beside the bed with his head cocked, eyeing his cache. All he got for a reprimand was a question, "Timo, what have you been up to?" No one asked how Timo got in and out to perform his task.

The fellows were supposed to take turns at making bread. Mr. Lassila was excused from that job after his bread came out full of flecks. Alfred asked if he had put cinnamon in it. "No, I guess my hands were a little dirty," he replied. His team of broncos had lice and he'd just finished currying them before kneading the bread. It seems Alfred's specialty was pies. One niece recalls the time he dropped in to her family's homestead and offered to teach her to make pies. Dried fruit was used for filling. When finished, there were pies on top of and beneath every available spot in the tiny log cabin . . . "But the crusts were like shoe leather." Interestingly, when his nephew, Helge, visited him at his bachelor shack in Eastlake, Minnesota, in 1948, he was treated to fresh blueberry pie which, again, were perched on every level surface in his kitchen. His crusts had improved.

Alfred sold his land at Kuusamo to another brother, Frank, in 1910. He made a trip back to Finland and in 1916 he left Alberta to settle in the Aitken-McGregor area of Minnesota, where he lived to the age of 86. It is ironic that, at such an age, death should have to come as the result of injuries sustained when hit by a car on the highway near his home. Several of the Staudingers from Alberta had visited him in the summer of 1967, prior to his November passing. They had found him hale and hearty, having just celebrated his birthday. Burial was conducted by Rev. A. Anderson of Duluth, husband of his niece, Helvi.

ADAM ALEXANDER STAUDINGER
S.W. 22-38-2-5

Alex is the only brother whose descendants still farm his original homestead as well as other land he acquired through the 41 years he lived and farmed in the district. Like his brothers, he spent the necessary time on the homestead to improve the land and build up a farmstead, working in the mines at Crowsnest many a winter, to supplement his income.

Sometime during these years, Alex began a correspondence with a young lady who had grown up only a mile from his childhood home, but whom he had not known personally. Hilda Maria Rahja had come from Kalajoki, Finland, to Port Arthur, Ontario in 1900, followed by her sister, Ida Josephine. She returned to Finland once for a few years and then back to Port Arthur. In 1912, the two sisters set out for the "Wild West", where Alex Staudinger had enlarged his homestead shack in readiness for the marriage which took place upon the arrival of the young ladies.

Ida Josephine Rahja spent several years out west. Besides working in the vicinity, she worked some in Calgary and in Butte, Montana. She spent some time with the Staudingers before returning to Finland in 1921 where she lived out her life, unmarried. She was not impressed with the prairies and the family suspects that her stories of this wild, forsaken, coyote-ridden land have frightened several generations of kin-folk as only one young couple from that family has ever visited Alberta and that as recently as 1973.



Alex Staudinger — 1900.

Though short in stature, Alex Staudinger could not be called a small man. He was, all five feet three inches of him, "built from the ground up." Physically strong, with an abundance of Finnish "sisu". (Translated "intestinal fortitude.") The story of his first venture into the outside world, pictures him well. It was haying time. His folks

and neighbors shared the labour. Eleven-year-old Alex was not quite grown-up enough for the hay-fields but the only one of several children deemed responsible enough to baby-sit the year-old baby daughter of the neighbor lady. All those who were too small for either job could follow the parents to the fields and play. The baby cried all the time and nothing he tried to do would appease her. A few days of that and he made up his mind. Tying his few clothes into a bundle, he waited until he was sure the mothers were near enough home that no harm could come to the baby before they got there, he sneaked off in another direction and ran for dear life. He didn't stop till he reached the seashore. There, two "old men" were preparing to leave for the summer's fishing on an island in the Gulf of Bothnia. He asked if they could give him a job. "Can you clean herring?" one asked. "Yes I can" he assured them, determined he could learn anything in preference to baby-sitting. They gave him supper and a place to sleep, promising to think it over. After he had fallen asleep, one of them walked the two miles to his home to ask his parents if he could accompany them. Sensing his determination, they wisely chose to let him go. Throughout the summer, occasional spells of homesickness were soothed by the satisfaction that he was so far from home that no one could find him to haul him back to that hateful job. Once, on the island, a death occurred. The body was laid out in the shed where the fish kegs were stored. It was dark when his employers needed a keg. They debated who would go for one. Alex laughed "Who's afraid of a corpse? It can't hurt anyone." "Would he go?" they asked. He did . . . but he confesses that he never told them that after leaving the shed, he glanced back over his shoulder, to see if anything was following him. After returning home in the fall, he never left home until he left for America at seventeen. He spent thirteen years in the U.S., some as a farm labourer but mostly in the mines in Minnesota, the Dakotas, Wyoming and Montana, coming to Canada in 1902. Now, after ten years of batching and having a wife to share his home, going to the Crowsnest mines to supplement his income was not so appealing. Alex bought a new wagon, and for some years, freighted between Red Deer

and Evarts. In time, enough land was cleared to take all of his time and for the farm to support itself.

Alex was past 40 and Maria in her 30's when their firstborn, **Arvo Alexander** arrived. It was a deep shock when at 10½ months, this healthy baby boy was taken from them. With no doctor close, it is only known that he was having trouble teething and went into a convulsion. Mrs. Slack, the nearest neighbor, did all she could to revive him, but in vain. **Helge Alfred** was born five months later, on July 6, 1915; **Helvi Maria** on September 10, 1916; **Toivo Walter** on September 10, 1918 and **Hedvi Rauha** on June 4, 1922.

Getting to the Marianne School nearly four miles distant proved difficult. Helge was not sent until Helvi was old enough to go with him. School terms were not always from September through June. It was in the spring when Helge and Helvi first went to school. Young Raymond Hilman, then in grade 8, was hired to live with them and take the horse and buggy to and from school. When school resumed in the fall, they were sent on horseback. They knew the way well enough but saw no harm in stopping to visit with friends on the way home. One season of that worry was enough so before the fall term of 1924, Alex set forth to find a home nearer to the school. He located one right across the road. The youngest, **Elna Esther** was born there on November 15, 1926. It was there that the family lived and farmed until the fall of 1943 when Mr. and Mrs. Staudinger retired and with Hedvi and Elna, moved to Calgary. Mrs. Staudinger was happy to be back in the city. Life had been hard on the farm, with no conveniences, and especially since injuries from an auto accident in 1935 had left her on crutches and finally in a wheelchair. She loved to travel and did so a lot with her family. Her hands were seldom idle. From her wheelchair she claimed as hers such tasks as putting the bread into pans, frying donuts by the dozens, rolling and cutting tea biscuits and mending. Knitting and crocheting were pleasure. Many will remember the lovely work she did, for nothing left her hands with the minutest flaw. It had to be perfect. Mr. Staudinger found the transition harder and spent much of the first years back at the farm with Helge and family. Hilda Maria passed away on November 22, 1954 at the age of 75 and Adam Alexander on July 22, 1955 at the age of 84, their resting place the Kuusamo Cemetery.

On July 12, 1941, **Helvi** married Rev. Arnold Anderson of Marshland, Oregon. His first pastorate was Esko, Minnesota. Except for a few years in Ashtabula, Ohio, they have lived in or near Duluth, Minnesota and raised a family of two daughters and three sons. They have grandchildren. Hedvi is Mrs. Victor McCallum of Calgary. Vic was part owner of Sunnyside Auto-body Shops for many years while Hedvi worked in several oil company offices. They are now both working in real estate. Their oldest, Laurie, works in Ottawa. James and Lorena attend High School from home. Elna is Mrs. Charles Kovach. They lived for a number of years in Calgary where Charles was in the auto-transport business. They now farm on his father's former place in the Craig district. Their eldest, Dick, graduated in Electronics Technology at S.A.I.T. in Calgary in September 1975 and is employed with the Electronics Dept. of the University of Alberta, Calgary. On May 1, 1976, he was married to Shauna Murray, daughter of Mr. and Mrs.



Alex Staudinger family. B.R. — Elna, Walt, Hedvi, Helgi, Helvi. Seated — Mr. & Mrs. Alex Staudinger.

Andy Murray of Sylvan Lake. Their second, Kelly, is with the R.C.A.F. He has specialized in commercial flying, including helicopter training. Joy Ann and David attend Spruceview School.

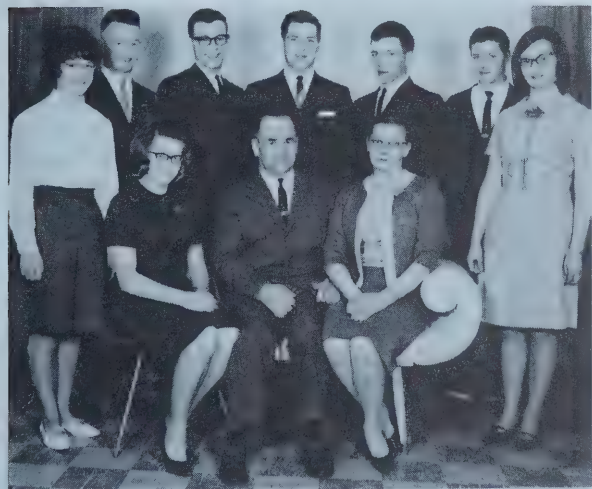
HELGE ALFRED STAUDINGER — by Carmen Staudinger Juuti N.W. 12-38-2-5

It started out with an ice cream cone and ended up with eight kids . . . at least that's the story Dad always told.

Helge Staudinger met Marjorie Vivian Matson of Battle Ground, Washington, in 1935 while attending a church convention at Clatskanie, Oregon. Someday they'd be "Dad 'n Mom" to me.

On the way home from Oregon, Dad had a car accident resulting in the death of one man and leaving his mother badly injured. Someone, desiring to comfort him, asked several young people to write to him. Mom was one of several but eventually the correspondence dwindled to her alone. Mom visited Alberta once during the courtship and Dad made a couple of trips to Washington but it was mostly a friendship through letters.

The wedding was set for May 31, 1941, in Washington, and all looked fine until Dad got to Olds on his way south. Realizing he had forgotten his suit at home, he turned back. Meanwhile the home folks had spied the suit and Uncle Walt headed across country with it. By luck, Dad and Walt met at Innisfail. This episode was remembered by us kids because of a picture of a bride and her trouserless groom, drawn for Mom by her aunt, Irene Hilman.



Heige Staudinger family. Standing — Sue Ann, Clifford, Russell, Richard, Harvey, George, Louise. Seated — Carmen, Helge, Marge.

Mom and Dad settled down on "The Other Place" (Grandpa — Alex Staudinger's homestead), with Dad farming for himself and Grandpa. They loved that old place and hoped to make it their permanent home but things didn't turn out that way.

April 1942, saw the arrival of the first of five sons, **Clifford James**. Less than a year later, March 1943, I (**Carmen**) arrived. I was born at home, six weeks early,

during the third big blizzard of the winter. Dad walked to Gutterud's for help. Mrs. Gutterud and Ragna tramped through the deep snow to be with Mom while Dad and Mr. Gutterud took Gutterud's team, towed Elmer Anderson's car to the highway and later back to our house with the doctor. Dr. MacGregor Parsons arrived shortly before I did, a squalling 6½ lbs., as "accurately" weighed on the palm of the doctor's hand.

When I was eight months old Mom and Dad moved to the home place across from the Marianne school as Grandpa and Grandma retired to Calgary.

Eino Euren stayed with us that year and attended school. He stayed with us again when he was 15. Throughout the years he had been in touch with us several times. In the fall of 1976 he visited at Marianne Farms. He has just recently returned to Alberta from Ontario, where he has been employed as a welder for a construction company for the past 12 years. He will be working in a similar job here.



The next seven years saw the arrival of **Russell**, 1944, **Harvey**, 1945, **Richard**, 1946, **Louise**, 1948, **George**, 1949, and **Sue Ann** in 1950.

What happened besides babies arriving? Well . . . farming continued through thick and thin. Dad gradually bought the land owned by his brother and his sisters as they decided to make their lives in other occupations. For a number of years Dad and Wilfred Kenzle farmed together and we all remember, with pleasure, Wilfred's hearty laugh, also the many good times our families had together.

In the first years horses were still used some, mainly for haying. Talking about horses, Dad had a favorite, Nellie, who saved his life once. It happened during the winter of 1950. We went to visit Rolf and Selma

Holmgren (now the Ivan Holland place) and realized we had better not stay because a bad storm was brewing. However, Dad found one tire flat so Selma made a quick coffee while the men changed the tire. Quickly we headed home. Bucking drifts and blinding snow we made it to the S.E. corner of our east quarter, just north of Duke Bell's present driveway, when we got thoroughly stuck. There was no other way than for Dad to walk the half-mile home for a team and sleigh to come for the rest of us. To us kids it wasn't any great hardship. Mom told us stories and we were warm . . . with nine people crammed in the truck cab!

Dad figured he could follow the clumps of bush along the fence line and have some shelter from the storm. Even so, he was soon forced to sit down to catch his breath because the cold and wind got his asthma going. Suddenly he realized that something was beside him. It was Nellie. With effort he hauled himself onto her back, which was something, too, because he had trained her to dash off the moment he jumped for her back. This time she stood still. Thus, Dad got home, built up the fire, harnessed the team and hitched them to half a rack of hay. With blankets to cover us, he soon had us safely home. Again, it was great fun for us kids, though we often got sleigh rides. Who cared that it was way past mid-night as we huddled around the old, round, wood-burning heater and toasted ourselves before we crawled into bed.

Back to farming: Hail plowed through the district from 1949 to 1960. Not everyone got hailed out every year, but economics were getting somewhat dim. We were lucky to have the land Dad had bought from Uncle Walt. It never did get hailed. Before the hail years, Mom had always thought it was such a bother to have our land scattered about in three locations but she changed her mind about it. I remember especially the storm of August 11, 1960. Dad badly needed a new swather but he wanted to be sure of a crop before buying one. By August 10, he had both barley and oats ready on the home place and we'd never had hail this late in summer so it looked pretty safe. He went to Red Deer and found a swather but the dealer asked if he could keep it there one more day, to use as a pattern for assembling more of them. There seemed no rush so he left it and returned for it the next morning. Back home, he and Cliff cut a few rounds on each field. About four in the afternoon the storm broke. That was the end of the oats. They did harvest the barley and got 7 to 8 bushels per acre from it. We did have other untouched fields.

Through the years we had various hired help. Some of those remembered were Walter and Vivian Bunch, George and Emmy Op den Dries, Maunu Korhonen and his sister, Maila, Eddie Tiuhonen and Dennis Bramall. We were thankful to have Dennis help out when Dad had polio in 1952. Dad spent four months in the hospital and Dennis looked after fall field work and the chores with the help of Clifford, 10, and Russell, 8, besides doing carpenter work in Sylvan Lake during the day. Other household help were Mom's younger sisters, Stase, on whom there is a separate story, Marlene Horlacher and Eila Kinnunen, who both kept things well looked after for young girls. I think every girl in the community came, occasionally, to help Mom or to baby-sit and we enjoyed them all. Bessie Hallgren was the cheerful girl who was

so helpful when Mr. Weyman and his crew of four stayed at our house while they built the new Marianne School in the fall of 1947.

Calgary Power came through in 1951 and I remember especially, the "new" second-hand vacuum cleaner and the Christmas tree lights. Electricity was not totally new to our family as we had 32-volt power for several years. In 1945 we got a lighting plant, with a gasoline-powered generator and storage batteries in the basement. Washdays always started with the "put-put" of the engine to provide extra power. Later a windcharger was added and the plant used only when there was not enough wind. Calgary Power also heralded the end of the old flat irons on the stove.

I was living away from home by the time the phones came but I don't think we older kids missed anything. We enjoyed walking to Hilman's, Kenzle's, Kuores' and most often, Olson's. Rafting was a favorite summer sport. Someone always fell in, or in an emergency . . . jumped in . . . like when a mouse climbed aboard and one girl landed waist-deep in the slough. Clifford went hauling cars with Uncle Walt and bought the outfit from Auntie Jean after Walt passed away in 1962. Cliff drove for 13 years, hauling from Oshawa to Calgary and Saskatoon to central Alberta. He worked in the Melchin Transport yards in Calgary for two years. He now divides his time between his farm, which adjoins Dad's at Gimlet, and helping his brothers at Marianne Farms.

I took one year of nursing at Calgary General Hospital but found it was not my line. I worked for one year in Red Deer, first at Woolworth's and then at A.G.T. before entering the University of Alberta at Edmonton, in 1962. I got my Junior E Certificate and taught one year at Rocky Elementary. In July, 1965, I married Richard C. Juuti and moved to Bentley, where I taught one year. We now live west of Bentley, where we raise registered Herefords, a few horses, chickens and pets. Dick works for the County of Lacombe as school maintenance supervisor. We have four children: Shane, ten; Shelley, seven; Karen, five; and Kimberly, one year.

Russell, Harvey and Richard took over the home place from Dad in 1969. They rent the other three quarters from him on a crop-share basis, giving him one-third of each crop for rent, as they do with several other parcels of land from neighbors. (See Marianne Farms.)

Louise attended the University of Alberta in Edmonton, taking Inter-Cultural Education. She taught three years at the Sunchild O'Chiese Indian School, west of Rocky Mountain House, and two years at the Erminskin Elementary School at Hobbema before returning to the University in the fall of 1976, to get her Bachelor of Education.

George has made his home in the Northwest Territories since he finished high school at the Red Deer Composite School. He took his plumber's apprenticeship under H. & H. Plumbing (Gerald and Glen Hilman) of Yellowknife and Hay River. In August, 1973, George was married to Elizabeth Rose Kurti at Portland, Oregon. Beth is the daughter of Reverend and Mrs. Rafael Kurti of Salem and her father performed the ceremony. They make their home in Hay River and have two girls: Rebecca, three, and Rachel, one and a half years. George hopes to return to farming eventually.

Sue Ann is the only one of us kids who didn't go to Marianne School. She attended the Sylvan Lake school for 12 full grades. After graduation there, she took her Business Education at the Olds Agricultural and Vocational School. In November, 1969, she was married to Kenneth S. Brzak of the Gaetz district. Ken is a heavy duty mechanic with Canadian National Railways, and they have lived with frequent transfers, between Edmonton, Vancouver and Prince George. He was returned to Edmonton in May, 1976, and they have now bought a home in St. Albert. Their three children are: Kevin, five, Heather, three and Stephanie, born in July, 1976.

In 1962 Dad bought three quarters of land in the Gimlet district. It was first intended only for summer pasture. Soon Dad found himself spending most of the time there, clearing brush and fencing, so in 1969, he and Mom built a new home there and "retired" (?) — beginning a whole new farming operation.

SPRINGTIME RAFTING

Melting snow is quickly making, sloughs across the country side.

Inland seamen, faces glowing, get their rafts out for a ride.

High-top boots and ragged clothing, donned upon each happy boy,

Out they rush to nearby puddles; Snow is fun, but mud is joy!

Getting wet is part of springtime, and leaky rafts are just the thing

For amateur sailors to fall off of, into the cold and muddy drink.

Still unshaken, laughing gaily, run they home to houses warm,

Soaked and shivering, tell their story —

Spring can do these boys no harm!

Louise Staudinger, 1965

LIFE

All life is hardly a spruce woods . . . A buttercup . . . A newborn calf . . . Or even a crow's cry . . .

Life is not always Summer . . . Sweet . . . Pleasant . . . Or even beautiful

But life is real and worthwhile . . . worth caring . . . brings joy . . . and even tears . . .

Louise Staudinger, 1968

RUSSELL, HARVEY AND RICHARD STAUDINGER — MARIANNE FARMS — N.W. 12-38-2-5 — by Karina Staudinger

Harvey and Dick began farming together in 1965 when Harv rented one quarter of land from Wayne Kuores (he had also worked it the previous two years) and Dick rented one quarter from his father, Helge Staudinger. Gradually they rented more land until, in 1967, they purchased S.E. 11-38-2-5 from Delores Gardiner. The farm grew steadily and in 1971 they bought N.E. 22-38-2-5 from Sten and Abram Holappa and in 1972 adding the half section purchased from George and Myrtle Bechthold S. 19-38-1-5.

Russ had joined the farming operation in 1967 after having worked in a bank in Taber for seven months and then having spent three and a half years trucking. It was in 1967 that the partnership was formed. In the year Russ



Richard Staudinger family.

came back to the farm, Dick had four cows and Harv one, but this herd grew until in 1967 the farm had 150 breeding cows all of which were recorded Simmentals both purebred and percentage. That year they sold all that remained of their commercial cows.

Harv and Dick both found time to attend Olds Agricultural College and they graduated in 1967 and 1968 respectively, Harv having majored in Farm Management and Dick in General Agriculture. Both obtained special awards while there.

In 1968 and 1969 the boys took on a second job — that of milk-hauling. Their route was about 200 miles per day and they often started out at two in the morning in the summer but later during the winter months. The boys took turns driving the milk route, taking a week each. Early one morning Russ stopped at one farm to find a message from the young lady of the house written in red felt-tip pen in the top of her father's milk cans. Though teased about this, Russ maintains it was really meant for one of the other boys as they had just changed drivers!! Milk cans are very heavy to lift but are not difficult to throw onto the truck with the right swing. One morning Dick found a message that stated help was needed by the lady of the house whose husband was away. It turned out that the lady understood very little English and wanted to help Dick load the milk cans as they were so heavy. Dick declined but didn't explain that on his own he had no difficulty whereas he would find it impossible to throw the can plus the farmer's wife!

In 1971, the boys formed Sylvan Cattle Company together with Dennis Bramall, Bernie Bystrom, Cai Jenson, Howard Kathol, Bill Staniforth and Murray Stauffer. Howard Kathol manages the company which is a Simmental breeding operation that, between 1972 and 1976, imported nineteen head of purebred Simmental cattle from Switzerland. In 1976 the company held its second Annual Joint Production Sale in conjunction with Church Simmental Ranches of Calgary.

Dad and Mom Staudinger had built a new house in the fall of 1969 and moved to S.W. 19-41-4-5 in the

Gimlet district, forty miles northwest of the old home place.

All was running more or less smoothly at Marianne Farms with the three boys "batching" and farming on the home place, until in 1970 Louise, a sister of the boys then teaching at Sunchild O'Chiese Indian Reserve, decided to take pity on a young English girl with whom she taught and took her home for Christmas. Karina Lang had come to Canada from England in the summer of 1969. She was born in Purley, Surrey, in 1943 and spent most of her childhood near Bognor Regis, Sussex, on the south coast of England. Working for a bank for four years, she then decided to return to school to train as a teacher. After having taught in a slum area of London for a year, Karina came to Calgary to teach before going out to the reserve one year later.

As her visits to Marianne Farms became more frequent, the boys decided they'd better make good use of her and so, on Thursday, March 30, 1972, Dick and Karina were married. They have made their home on the S.W. 19-38-1-5 and have two children, though the evidence suggests that this will be "upped" to three in April, 1977. **Stewart James** was born on his father's birthday November 20, 1973, and **Riva Joan** arrived on September 23, 1975.

TOIVO WALTER STAUDINGER — S.E. 21-38-2-5

The bride wore the uniform of the C.W.A.C., when Toivo Walter Staudinger and Jean Esme Tooley were married at Sylvan Lake Presbyterian church in March, 1943. For some months Walt and Jean moved about, as Walt worked at various jobs. When his parents retired to Calgary the following fall, they moved to the homestead place, which his brother Helge had vacated to take over the home place. Walter's own land was the quarter directly west, across the road. He farmed both that and the homestead.

Walter's health was not good and he found the heavy jobs on the farm too much for him. Selling his land to Helge, he returned to other work, mostly trucking jobs, until the spring of 1951 when the auto-transport business in Alberta was born. Walt was one of the first men in Alberta to go into it. He had been told years before that to drive a car was too strenuous for him, but his love of the road and his "never say die" attitude undoubtedly carried him a long way. He remained at the wheel until a few months before his passing in October, 1962. Attending doctors said that at 44, he had more than twice outlived the expected life-span of one with his type of congenital heart condition.

After leaving the farm, Walt and Jean lived awhile in Calgary and then settled in Lethbridge. It is there that Jean established Kradle Koop Nurseries. At first she took in children at all hours, by the hour, the day, week or month, as well as government wards. As the years went by, it was harder to get help and her own girls were leaving for lives of their own. It was increasingly hard to carry on with such a schedule. She purchased a duplex, converting one half into a nursery to accommodate about 40 children. She lived in the other half. Turning the first nursery over to her sister, she now takes only babies from birth to two years. Just recently, Jean has opened another centre, which is under her management. It is called the "Narnia", and accommodates 45 children. She takes

only day children, and finds a constant need for her services.

Two daughters were born to Walt and Jean. They are **Teresa** and **Deborah**. **Linda** is a chosen daughter, who came to them through Kradle Koop. They had Linda with them for some time before they began adoption proceedings and had no doubt about how much they wanted her. Though the final papers were not completed at the time of Walt's passing, Jean was awarded them in due time.

Terry married Larry McLeod in 1965. Larry is a realtor with Royal Trust. They have two young sons, Sean and Troy. Deborah is a teacher, specializing in French. Her studies took her twice to France, first in 1969 to the Universite' Courtyard College International at Cannes, and then in 1971 to Nice. Married to Meguido Zola in 1972, she continues teaching as well as working with him to publish French language books, and studying toward her Master's degree. Meguido is an assistant professor at the Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, British Columbia. They make their home in Port Coultlam. Linda is presently at home with her mother and is on the staff at Kradle Koop Nurseries.

MR. AND MRS. THOMAS SMITH — S.W. 22-38-2-5

Thomas Smith and Elizabeth Johnston were married in Scotland in 1908 and came to Canada in 1910 to homestead near Medicine Hat. They had six children, all born on the homestead. **George, John, James, Thomas, William and Robert**.

In December, 1924, they moved to the Alex Staudinger farm which they rented for three years. The Pete Anderson and Arthur Caton families came from the prairie to Benalto at the same time. The train bringing their possessions arrived at Benalto carrying seven carloads of belongings and 15 children. Most of the Smith's horses, about fifty, were driven up from the prairie the following spring by Fred Cowan. Nine of the horses drowned in the swamp on the Staudinger farm as soon as they were turned out and quite a few more didn't survive the first winter.

Mr. Smith's mother lived with the family from 1925 until her death in 1947, at age 91.

In 1927 the family moved to the Kalaputas farm, two miles east of Benalto, which they bought from Charlie Jenkins of Benalto. They also bought the Julius Selvais place, adjoining Elspeth, which is now owned by Dick and Pat Meyers. The children then attended the Kuusamo school. They had previously attended school at Evarts.

In 1937 the sons bought one quarter of land from Tony Andreus, north of Eckville, and in 1939 the Christie farm, two miles west of Eckville. Tom Smith managed the Medicine Valley Livestock Association for six years, in the 1930's. He was President of the Benalto Agricultural Society for three years and was an elder in the Presbyterian Church. Elizabeth Smith was always active in church and community activities.

In 1941, Tom Junior and Bill joined the Army and served overseas until 1946, when they returned to settle on farms near Eckville. George bought the home farm when Mr. and Mrs. Smith retired in 1947 and went to live with Robert near Eckville. In 1950 they moved into the town of Eckville.

Elizabeth Smith died on November 3, 1955, at age 67 and Thomas Smith died on November 3, 1976, at 94 years of age.

George married Edna Gibson from Carbon, Alberta in 1943. They have two children, Patricia and David.

John married Marlene Hayhurst from Vancouver, B.C., in 1962 and they have four children — Kenneth, John, Bradley and Rebecca.

Jim married Elsie Gerbatch from Breslau, Germany and their children are Fred, Stephen, Ralph, Linda and Gordon.

Tom married Janet Shanks from Mayerthorpe, Alberta in 1947 and their children are Ronald, Isabel, Murray and Edith.

Bill married Jean Staniforth from Evarts in 1948 and they have four daughters — Beth, Sharon, Mary and Beverly.

Bob married Kay Hebner from Turtle Valley, B.C. in 1950. Their children are Gary, Dale, Philip, Kathy and Jim.

EMIL TAKALA — S.E. 21-38-2-5

It wasn't that Emil Takala didn't take a bath. He did. And it wasn't that he didn't wash his clothes. He did that too. When Emil heated the old-fashioned Sauna, he heated it extra hot. When he went in for his steam, he took it hotter and longer than anyone else. He soaped and washed, took more steam, and rinsed every Saturday night. When he washed his winter woolies, he boiled them thoroughly. True, they didn't come out sparkling white, but there couldn't have been any germs or bacteria left on them. Maybe it was his diet. Tom Britton got sick to the stomach watching Emil crack 23 eggs into a cast-iron skillet and cook them into a solid mass. When Emil sat down to his omelet, Tom had to retire to the bedroom to lie down awhile. Needless to say, he didn't have to eat every three or four hours like more fragile people did. Maybe it was his work habits. He didn't always have to sleep regularly either. Tom Britton called him "the ghost who stooked". There wasn't a better stooker in the country, but if his neighbors stooking wasn't getting done fast enough, he'd stook all day at one field, finish someone else's field that night, and be at another field the next day. If it wasn't convenient, he didn't waste time for meals. Whatever it was that gave him an aura all his own, we'll probably never know, but it was there. It was by this that Helge Staudinger's wife knew him the first time she saw him before her brother-in-law Walt, had a chance to introduce him.

Emil had lived in the Staudinger's homestead house for eleven years, before Helge and Marjorie moved into it in 1941. When Helge asked Emil if he could move elsewhere, to accommodate the needs of their forthcoming marriage, Emil decided to return to Ontario, from whence he had come. Therefore the time Marjorie arrived on the scene, he was no longer around.

Emil came to the Sylvan Lake area in 1928. That fall, he worked on the Hendrickson's threshing crew. After the harvest was over, he got a job brushing for Alex Staudinger. One day he had to carry his bleeding "coffee boy" back to the house. Helge at 13 years of age, was going to be useful while Emil drank the coffee he had taken out. Picking up the axe he swung at some willows, but something was wrong with his aim. He slashed his leg just

above the ankle. The muscle was cut, and his father was the doctor. Deep scars remain, but he remembers his benefactor fondly, for the lift to the house and many other deeds of kindness and helpfulness throughout the years.

In the spring of 1929, after working the winter for John Pykalainen at Alhambra, Emil moved into the Staudinger house. He did not farm himself, but kept busy working for neighborhood farms. A hard-worker and dependable, he was always in demand, especially at harvest, haying and wood-cutting times. He kept a team of horses, a cow, a few chickens and an occasional pig, turkey, or a few ducks or geese. He always had a dog for company.

Emil won little acclaim in the finer skills, so the Holappas were astonished and very grateful when he revived their cow, which they had given up for lost. Nearly dead with milk fever it was already prostrate on the ground. He asked for the air pump for the gas lantern, and pumped air into the teats. The cow quickly recovered. It was an old remedy, frowned on by professional people.

He never learned much English, but he used what he had, often puzzling his audience. The Gutteruds found such statements as "kunk cum Benalto" and "turkey cum 'too da moke hole", a bit confusing. Translated, someone had told him they'd seen a skunk on the way home from Benalto . . . and his turkey had escaped from the blacksmith shop through the smoke vent.

On his return to Port Arthur, Ontario, he worked for the city Public Works Department until his retirement in 1965. He lived only a year and a half after he retired, passing away in late 1966. Born at Elimake, Finland, in July of 1900, the only known relatives in this country were two nieces who attended his funeral in Port Arthur.

WALTER TIIHONEN SW 12-38-2-5

Walter Tiihonen moved to the Marianne district in 1926 from Rocky Mountain House. He emigrated from Finland in 1908, coming first to United States, and then to Rocky Mountain House in 1910.

In 1914, he sent for his family in Finland. His wife Hilja, a son Ate (later known as Ed), and daughter Hilja, came to the homestead shortly after, and the Tiihonen family stayed on their farm until 1925, when Mr.



Walter Tiihonen family. L-R — Hilja, Mr. and Mrs. Tiihonen and Ed.

Tiihonen bought a farm from Tom Myers in the Marianne district. The move to the new farm was made in April of 1926. This trip took two days, as they grazed the cattle along the way. A week later, the son Ate came with his mother, plus calves, chickens and household cats.

In the summer of 1925, the log house and barn were constructed on the Rocky homestead with the idea that they would be taken down and moved to the new farm. The logs were taken down and placed on a flat-car, and moved by train to Elspeth, and then hauled to Marianne by team and wagon, where they were reconstructed on the new farm location.

The daughter Hilja, after working in Calgary and Big Valley, married Stephen Sydney in 1927. Three daughters and one son were born to Hilja and Steve. They were Joanne, Dorothy and Betty.

Ed Tiihonen married Ina Rahko in 1932, and one son Eddie, and one daughter Ellen were born to them.

A threshing machine was purchased and used extensively through-out the district for many years. In 1944, Mrs. Hilja Tiihonen passed away and Walter moved to Sylvan Lake in 1948, where he lived until his passing in 1954. Ed and Ina carried on the farming operation until Ed's death in 1969, after a lengthy illness, Their



Ed Tiihonen family.

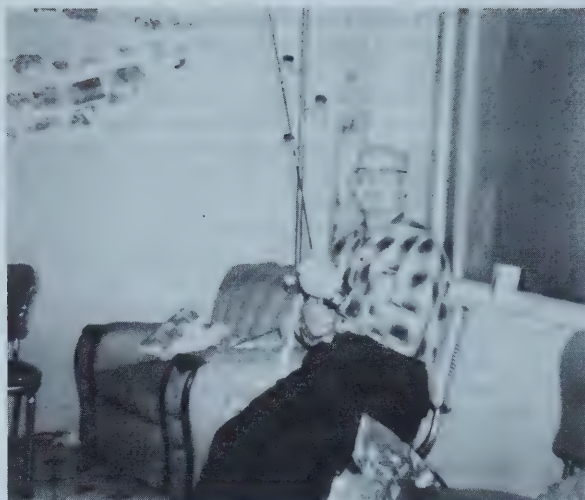
daughter, Ellen, married Frank Sigurdson of the Centerville district in 1953. They have five sons and one daughter and farm in the New Centerville district.

Their son Eddie married Louise Warmer from Red Deer in 1956. They have one son and one daughter and carry on a farm machinery dealership and garage in Eckville.

Mrs. Ina Tiihonen still lives on the farm at Marianne, but the land is farmed by her son-in-law, Frank Sigurdson.

JACOB THOMPSON

Jacob Thompson was born in Denmark in 1902. He came to Canada in 1928, first to Saskatchewan, and later moved to Wayne, Alberta. In 1930, he married Mariane



Jake Thompson.

Nielsen, also from Denmark. In 1934, he bought land in the Spruce View area, and lived there until 1963, when he sold his farm, and bought an acreage in the Marianne district, where he lived until his passing in August, 1971. Mrs. Thompson passed away in March, 1939. Both are buried in the Dickson cemetery. Mr. Thompson, left a widower, raised three young daughters alone. **Norma**, the youngest, married Merle Bigam of Edmonton (formerly of Bentley). They have five children: Sharon, Brian, Kevin, Vicki, and Mark, all living in Edmonton. **Ruth**, the second daughter, is married to Ralph Wells. They have five children: David, married to Susan McQuinn; Kathy; Carolyn, married to Don Friend; Ronald and Jeff who live in Edmonton. **Ann**, the eldest, is married to Jim Bott, of the Eckville district. They have six children. Wesley married Clara Miller. They have two sons, Jamie and Brent.

Delores married to Ron Misner. They have one son Brady. Niel, Myles, Noreen, and Ivan are all living at home in the Eckville area, except Wesley and his wife Clara, who are now living on the acreage formerly owned by his grandfather Jacob Thompson.

LELAND TWEED — N.E. 14-38-2-5

Born in Iowa in 1904, Leland Tweed was a young bachelor when he farmed on the Tom Shacklock place in Marianne in 1927-28. Coming first to the Condor district, he returned there in 1929. That spring he also journeyed back to La Grand, Iowa, where he married the "girl he'd left behind", Miss Grace O'Neil. In 1930, a son **Myron** arrived, and in 1934, twin sons, **Vernon** and **Virgil** were born.

Sorrow visited the family in 1942 when Mrs. Tweed passed away. Mr. Tweed carried on alone. The boys carried their share of the household chores and whatever was to be done. They were a comfort and a credit to him then and in their adult lives.

Myron and his wife have four children. Living in the suburbs of San Diego, he is a teacher of music at Point Loma College, and the minister of music at the Community Presbyterian Church at Rancho Bernardo, California. Vernon has travelled all over the world, when

employed as a buyer of toys for the Woodward's company. He is now merchandise manager for Woodward's in Edmonton, and makes his home there with his wife, two sons and a daughter. Virgil and his wife have one son and one daughter. They make their home in Calgary, where he is personnel supervisor with the Alberta Government.

Mr. Tweed continues to farm a half mile north of Condor, and has no plans for retirement at present. Always active in church and in community projects. Leland Tweed is widely known and highly respected all along the Burnt Lake trail.

JACOB VALLI — N.W. 14-38-2-5

Jacob (Jack) Valli was born in Lapula, Finland. His future wife Josephine was born in Oulu Laani, Finland. They both emigrated to the United States, early in 1890. They met and were later married at Sand Coulee, Montana. They first settled on a farm north-east of Vancouver, Washington. In addition to the farm, Jack worked in the mines, and did some commercial fishing. The Vallis with their five children; Lily, Ed, Wener, Stainor and Walter, moved to a homestead west of Sylvan Lake in the Marianne district in 1904. Aili and Vienna, the two youngest daughters, were born on the homestead later. The children first went to the Kuusamo school, which was three miles away. They attended here until 1910, when Marianne school was built. They remember walking through brush and timber with snow up to their hips or through creeks and sloughs in the summer. It was said that occasionally the teacher would have to form a posse to comb the bush in search of a lost youngster. They also complained that it didn't seem to matter what season of the year it was, shoes and stockings, to say nothing of the feet, were wet.

To provide cash income, Jack left several winters for the copper mines in Butte, Montana, where he would work. After purchasing further land, he was unable to do this any longer. Other means of income was hauling cream to Evarts. At this time there was a creamery at Evarts. Potatoes were hauled to Red Deer and traded for groceries and clothing. Jack also hauled freight from Red Deer to Evarts store, taking his pay in groceries. Dairy cows and pigs were added to the farm. The milk was suspended on a rope down the well to cool. T. B. Miller was making cheese at Kuusamo, and the milk was hauled there in 30-gallon cans, which had handles on both sides. A winch with hooks hoisted the cans off the wagons or sleds. Whey was always brought back to help feed the pigs. Finally there was 1100 acres broken on the Valli farm. This had all been cleared by hand. Oxen were used to turn the first ten acres of sod, and after that, horses were used. In 1919 the Vallis bought their first Avery tractor and a threshing machine. Steam engines had been used prior to this. This threshing machine was used for thirty years, when combines were used.

In early years, any grain sold had to be hauled to the sidings and shovelled by hand. It is little wonder that the Valli boys invented a type of grain augering with all this grain to shovel. The patent for this auger was patented in United States as well as Canada, and today are used all over the world. The Valli boys' shop was one of the finest in the neighborhood. They built their own arc-welder, one of the very first used on farms. Of course, the farm



1. Valli family. Back L-R — Stainor, Ed, Wener, Walter. Front — Lillian, Aili, Vienna. 2. Jacob Valli. 3. Mrs. Valli and girls Aili, Vienna and Lillian.

became modernized with the times. In 1917, the Valli's purchased a Model T Ford. It is also recalled that the Valli boys fixed a car for winter travel in the snow, by substituting sleigh runners for wheels in the front. It worked too.

Mrs. Valli worked hand in hand with her husband. She had organizing ability and every day had its work schedule. Meals were punctual and callers were always welcome. In 1928 a spacious five bedroom two-storey house was built.

After not having enjoyed the best of health for several years, Mr. Valli went to the State of Washington during the summer of 1926 with a view of benefitting from the change. By January his condition had taken a more serious turn, and in July, subsequent to his return to Sylvan Lake, his son Edward accompanied him to Mayo Brothers clinic at Rochester, Minnesota. No permanent benefit resulted and he died at Sylvan Lake on August 12, 1927, at the age of 69. Mrs. Valli survived him by almost 17 years, her death occurring on July 3, 1945, at the age of 76. Both Mr. and Mrs. Valli are buried in the Kuusamo cemetery. Mrs. Valli was bedridden for some time and was cared for by her daughter Lily at home, prior to her death.

Walter was born at Brush Prairie, Washington. He married Hilda Johnson, and they had a family of one son and one daughter. (See Johnson).

Wener was also born at Brush Prairie and is covered in a separate history, also Stainor Valli.

Lily married Gust Olson. (See Olson).

Aili married Martin Rousch, and resides in Kelowna, British Columbia. She has two sons and a daughter. Martin passed away in 1974.

Vienna married Andrew Wightman, who is now deceased. She lives in Vancouver, British Columbia.

Ed married, had one daughter, and is now deceased. (See Kuusamo).

STAINOR VALLI — NE 7-38-1-5

The Valli family moved into the Marianne district in November of 1904 to homestead the NW 14-38-2-5. They came from Brush Prairie, Washington, when Stainor was only two years old. The SW 13-38-2-5 was later bought, and is presently owned by a daughter, Mrs. Lillian Olson. The SW and S half of 23-38-2-5, the S half 26-38-2-5 were also purchased. The NW 23-38-2-5 was later bought by Stainor and brother Ed in 1959.

Stainor, with his brothers and sisters, went to the original Kuusamo school, later attending the Marianne school when it was built in 1912, as the Valli land was taken into the Marianne school district.

The first tractor the Vallis bought was an Avery 12-25 in 1918. This was a three-plow tractor. They had the first threshing outfit in Marianne in the early 1920's. This threshing machine was an Auldman Taylor 2742, and later they replaced the Avery 12-25 with a more powerful Avery 18-36 tractor which was also used on the threshing machine. The first car Stainor's family purchased was in 1916 or 1917, and was a Model T Ford. They also had one of the first radios, and had electric lights in their new house that was built in 1928, which was in the form of a 32 volt Delco Light Plant. Later the well-house, barns, and shop were electrified also. The Valli Brothers farmed together until the spring of 1937 when they held a large auction sale with auctioneer Clarence Damrom of Bentley selling everything the boys had owned together. This was in April of 1937, and it is remembered that spring breakup came extremely early that year. Stainor farmed on his own after this.

He married Jean Soderburg of Red Deer in 1938, and lived for a short period of time on the Valli Brothers' farm. Stainor and Jean moved to their present farm in the spring of 1939, the NE 7-38-1-5 and also the South half. Stainor first rented this land for five years, and



Valli brothers take possession of new tractors.

decided to purchase it, also owning land at the original Valli homestead. Stainor also farmed a half-section of the Holsworth farm in the Evarts district.

Stainor won several prizes for growing cereal grains in the late 1940's and into the 50's. In 1949 and 1950, he won first prize at the Calgary Seed Fair with a sample of Lorain oats. In 1955, he won second prize for malting barley in the National Barley Contest, taking second prize in the Regional, provincial, and inter-provincial. (Canada wide)

In 1951, Stainor won second prize at the Chicago World's Fair for Lorain oats.

Stainor and Jean Valli have one son, **Adrian**, who lives with them in Marianne. He farms with his father, purchasing the land formerly owned by Ed Valli which is the SW 26-38-2-5, and the N half of 23-38-2-5.

WENER VALLI — N.W. 14-38-2-5

Wener Valli moved into the community of Marianne in November, 1904, along with the rest of the family. He was born near Salt Lake City, Utah, in 1901. At three years of age he moved with his family from Brush Prairie, Washington, to the Marianne district where he has lived ever since.

Wener attended school at the original Kuusamo school for a short time. He later attended Marianne school after it was built in 1912.



Wener Valli — 1920.

Wener farmed with the family, helping to clear and break seven quarters of land. He farmed with his brothers Ed, Stainor and Walter until the spring of 1937, when they held a large auction sale selling their machinery and livestock, etcetera. All the brothers farmed on their own after this, purchasing their own equipment and operating separate from each other.

Wener has remained farming the home quarter of land since this time and lives on the original Valli homestead. He remains a bachelor, but still enjoys farming and reasonably good health. He also enjoyed hunting and curling in his younger years.

ALEX WALKER — N.E. 7-38-1-5

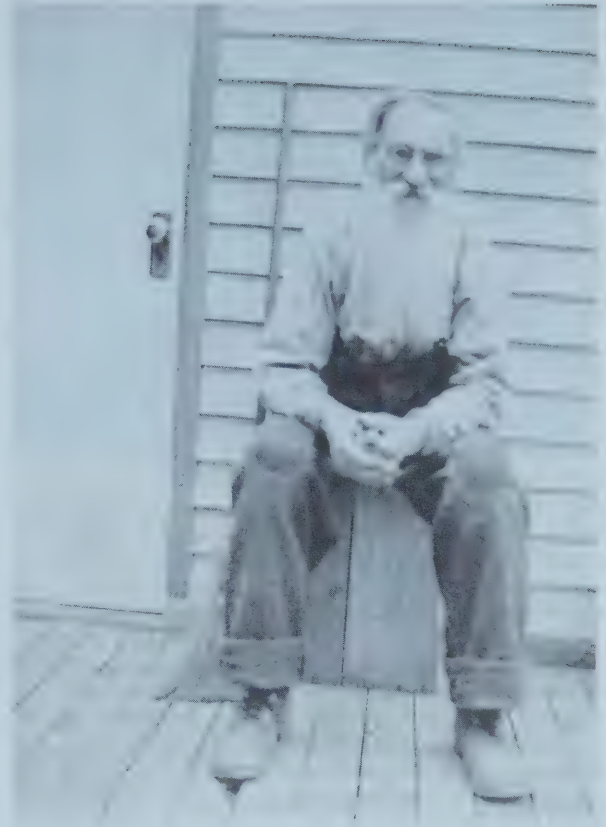
Alex Walker and his wife came from Scotland to an area west of Edmonton and about 1931 they came to the Marianne district to farm. This was the farm later occupied by Stainor Valli. Coming to the district with their stock, they farmed here for several years with horses. They were both active in the affairs of the district. Alex served on the school board from 1933 to December, 1937. The Walkers had no family, and so Alex is to be commended for taking such an interest in the school affairs. It is also noted from the minutes of the school business that numerous meetings were held in the Walker home. After leaving the Marianne district in the late thirties, the Walkers moved to a farm near Fort Saskatchewan, where it is believed there are still some relatives of Alex engaged in the contracting business. Mr. Len Rowan reports having seen the Walkers in Edmonton prior to their return to Scotland. In Scotland they have both since passed away.

PETER WETELAINEN S.W. 24-38-2-5

Many will remember the patriarchal figure of Mr. Peter Wetelainen with his long flowing beard, standing beside the highway west of Sylvan Lake in the golden glow of the sunset, watching the passing cars and enjoying the view of the beautiful blue waters of the lake. Forty-odd years had passed since he had come there as one of the first homesteaders south-west of Sylvan Lake.

Peter Wetelainen was born at Kuusamo, Finland in 1849. He was left an orphan at the tender age of six. From that time he had to support himself, working with the fishermen in the locality. It is not strange that he sought to make his new home near a lake. He had married young in Finland but the wife of his youth died in childbirth with their first child. The child lived only one year. Shortly after his loss, Peter emigrated to North Dakota, United States, where he remarried and farmed for five years, raising flax on unclaimed land.

A new century was dawning and when Peter Wetelainen read in a Finnish paper of homestead land in an unsettled area west of Red Deer, North-West Territories, Canada, he lost no time in fulfilling his dream of a new life and a permanent home of his own. With his wife and family of five young children, in the company of the Andrew Parvi family, also with five children, he left Kulm, North Dakota, in late March, 1900, arriving in Red Deer in early April. They had shipped with them three horses, some household furniture and a wagon. The river bridge had washed out



Peter Wetelainen.

earlier by floods and it was two weeks before the water was low enough so they could cross with all their belongings. In the meantime, the families camped in the engine room of the railroad yards while the men went west to stake their homestead claims. Leaving Red Deer, they traveled west to Burnt Lake where they were able to live for awhile in a vacant house owned by the Erickson family. The men went on to build new houses on the homesteads. Mr. Wetelainen built his of upright poles for walls, with tar paper and sod roof. The roof leaked and strips of spruce bark were used to patch it. A year later, a more comfortable home was built of logs.

As soon as the families were settled, cows were bought and the butter made was traded for groceries at stores in Red Deer. A road was made from the homestead to the lakeshore and this veteran fisherman kept his family well supplied.

Summer and fall brought welcome neighbors as the Pastobak, Pass and Kinnunen families took up land nearby. A team of oxen owned by Mr. Kinnunen was a welcome addition. They were used during haying and to take families to the lakeshore for fishing.

In 1902, a small daughter of the Wetelainens died and the need of a cemetery was realized. Later that year, this was established on the Kinnunen farm and the body was moved into it from its first resting place near the family home. 1902 also brought many more homesteaders into the district and the need of a school was felt. Mr. Wetelainen and Mr. Parvi were given a chance to draw straws for the privilege of naming the school. The winner,

Mr. Wetelainen, named it Kuusamo, after his birthplace. The name means "A place where the spruce trees grow." Mr. Wetelainen was one of the first school board members. In 1904 they bade farewell to the Parvis who returned to the United States.

In 1908, industry came to the area, when Mr. T. B. Millar built a cheese factory at the north edge of the settlement. This brought a closer market for milk and cream. The site was about four and a half miles west of Sylvan Lake on what is now Highway II and is now the home of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Brzak and family.

In 1910, Mr. and Mrs. Wetelainen sold all their farm implements and rented the farm out, continuing to live there. By 1919, all their family were gone, so they sold the farm to the younger Alex Kinnunen and went to live with their daughter, Caroline, at Hespero. Staying there only two years, they bought a plot of land just one mile west of the town of Sylvan Lake and built a home there. Mrs. Wetelainen passed away in 1922 and is buried in the Kuusamo cemetery. He then lived alone as long as he was able to — over 20 years. He did his own housework and cooking and spent most of his time in summer fishing on the lake he loved so much. Being of the old school, he never became accustomed to the brevity of the modern bathing suit. As the village became a popular summer resort, he went early to the stores to do his shopping, to avoid meeting those "very scantily dressed bathers." At 96 years his health failed and he had to leave his home by the lake to live with his daughter at Hespero. He was not long there when he passed away in October, 1946. At his own request, he was laid to rest in the Hespero cemetery.

Of the Wetelainen family, **Caroline** married Henry Kult in 1910 and went to live on his homestead in the Hespero district. She was the mother of nine children: **Bruno, Emil, Edna** (Mrs. Kauppi), **Albert, Elvie** (Mrs. W. J. Maki), **Elsie** (Mrs. Alec Strem), and **Hannah**, all of Hespero, **William** of Leslieville and **Mary** of Whitehorse, Yukon. Henry Kult passed away in 1931 and Mrs. Kult continued to operate the farm with her sons until her passing on May 19, 1969. The eldest son, Jonas Wetelainen, went to Ontario in 1910, married there and raised a family of five. He died in 1933. A daughter, **Mary**, died in 1917 and a son, **Ben**, died in 1919. The youngest daughter, **Sarah**, who never married, lived in Calgary until she passed away in the spring of 1976. She was laid to rest near her mother in the Kuusamo cemetery.

The present owner of the Wetelainen homestead is Phil Hilman.

ALEXANDER (SANDY) YORK

N.W. 7-38-1-5

Bill York recalls "only happy memories" of his early childhood in the Marianne district. He also remembered a Westerson family who lived across the road from them and the daughter, Jean, walked to school with them.

Sandy York was born at Midland, Ontario on March 22, 1881. During World War I, he married Elizabeth Jenkins of Staffordshire, England. After the war, he brought his bride to Lacombe where he operated a draying business. With a yen to farm, the Yorks came to the Norby farm at Marianne in the early 1920s.

Elizabeth York had done theatrical work in England and her contributions to the Christmas concerts were



much appreciated. As the children grew, their talents were welcomed as well. Whether singing or acting, a good performance could be expected.

Five of the children were born while they lived at Marianne. Mrs. Bertheuson was mid-wife to those born at home. The last of them were born in the Bentley Hospital.

With the onset of the depression, Sandy York went north, located a homestead and built a cabin. It was December, 1933 when he left with his family, for Bay Tree, Alberta. It was a long, wearisome journey with nine young children. The trek from the nearest town to the homestead seemed to stretch endlessly into the wooded wilderness.

There were long years of hardship. When Sandy could work at the sawmill, wages were \$5.00 a month but he had to take payment in lumber. Sometimes they got relief, also \$5.00 a month. Those were the days when all men were equal. A bachelor got the same relief as a family man. Moose were plentiful and as Mrs. York puts it, "I canned moose till it was coming out of my ears." The boys got 10 cents apiece for squirrel hides. Keeping warm those first winters was a full time job. School was irregular in the first years. They had three miles to walk and snow was often very deep. An old log cabin was their schoolhouse. In spite of obvious hardships, the family had little illness, and new people came as time went on. Many men walked from the end of the railway at Beaverlodge, to Dawson Creek, to claim their homesteads.

Four more children were born at Bay Tree. The hard years subsided and the older kids went out to make their own way. Mr. and Mrs. York "stuck it out" and didn't leave the north until in the late 1960s, when they retired to Winfield, B.C.

In the spring of 1969, the Yorks celebrated their Golden wedding at the Edmonton Inn. All 13 children were together for the first time in their lives, some of the older ones having left home before the youngest was born and never all got home at the same time. Mr. York passed away the following June 20, at 87 years of age.

Mrs. York moved to Kelowna and is active and vivacious, as ever, as she reaches her 80th birthday. With permission, we tell the story of her battle with the corset. Despite its importance to the ladies of her youth, she scorned it, much to her mother's consternation. For her departure from England to Canada, mother prevailed upon her to squeeze herself into one because she musn't begin her new life in bad form. Suffering the miserable garment just until the ship was out of sight from the shore, she simply reached beneath her skirts . . . yanked off the corset . . . and hurled it into the ocean. A few years ago, friends from Marianne visited the Yorks at Winfield, finding Mrs. York in her garden. She promptly announced that she had just returned from downtown and the first thing she had to do was go inside and take off "that wretched girdle!" Remembering the old story, the visitor laughed, "You and your wretched girdles!"

The family of Mr. and Mrs. Sandy York are: **Leonard** who farms with one son, at Bonanza, Alberta. He and Vicky have two sons and a daughter. **Bill** is in St. Albert and operated St. Albert Trail Auto Parts for 18 years before his semi-retirement. He now spends part of his time on his farm at Bonanza. He and Dorothy have four sons and two daughters. **Veronica**, Bill's twin, lives in Vancouver, B.C. and has a son and a daughter. **Jean** (Minabelle), has one son and lives in Las Vegas, Nevada. **Larry** is owner of Toussawassket Mobile Home Estates at Kelowna, B.C. He and Rose have three sons. **Ted** and **Helen** have four girls and live in Edmonton. Ted is with his brother **Glen** at Abe's Auto Parts. **Doug** is a car



salesman at Kelowna and he and Vivian have four girls and two boys. **Glen** and **Elsie** live in St. Albert and have a son and two daughters. Glen's business is Abe's Auto Parts. **Bruce** and **Henriette** have two girls and a boy. They have just moved to Westbank, B.C. where he will operate a trailer park which he and Glen have purchased. **Roy Bernada** and twins, **Barbara** and **Betty**, were born at Bay Tree.

RICHARD YORK SW 18-38-1-5

The bride-to-be arrived from England, laden with many fine clothes and hat boxes. She must have swallowed hard as she donned her white satin wedding gown and the groom had only the worn clothes in which he had been working about his farm. However, pioneer spirit took care of many a pioneer circumstance and the wedding proceeded as planned, with the Slacks, Sansburys and Shaklocks as guests, as well as an aunt of the bride who had travelled from England with her. The marriage took place at the farm home where Richard York had been living for a time already. He had come from England earlier, to establish a place for his bride to come to. We have no record of exactly how long they lived in the Marianne district but it was about 1914 when young Mrs. York died in childbirth with their first child. Her unmarked grave is in the southeast corner of the Kuusamo cemetery. Mr. York stayed on the farm for a few years. While there, he worked for Mr. Slack and did some freighting from Red Deer to Simpson's Store in Benalto. When last heard of, he had never remarried but he had been living in the Drumheller area and had been a lay minister in surrounding districts.

BITS AND PIECES

There are some people who have lived in Marianne, on whom we have very little information. Not wishing to have them forgotten altogether, we make mention of them in the following paragraphs.

One of the earliest is **O. Anderson** who homesteaded on the N.W. of 12-38-2-5. He was followed by **Mr. and Mrs. Mattias Mattson** who lived there for an undetermined length of time. Mr. Levi Erickson of Pine Hill is a nephew of the Mattsons. The late **Carl Engman** lived with

them and was one of the first pupils at the Marianne school. They went to Burnt Lake from Marianne.

A **Mrs. Haggith** owned several quarters of land but never lived on any of it. The Staudingers now own the one just south of the school and the other three are owned by Stainor Valli.

Three early residents on the S.E. of 12-38-2-5 were **Ed Larson**, the **Bakers** and **G. Hanson**. The Hansons lived mostly on the land where the school was. The son, **Alvin**, was the first to return to eastern Washington from whence they had come. The daughter, **Marida**, married James Dingman and after living for awhile on the S.E. of 13, they moved to Deer Park, Washington, north of Spokane. Jim has passed away but Marida, their married sons and families still live there.

The first meeting to organize a school was chaired by **Mr. A. Milward** but we find nothing more about him. **Mr. Nels Bergstrom** was one of the earliest secretaries and served in that capacity for many years. The Bergstroms lived on the place now owned by Roy Grutter. They had three sons, **John**, **Carl** and **Nels**.

It is believed that **Mr. Wesslin** lived on the present Duke Bell place. **Fred Ward** was on the Jack Britton place and **Mr. Roger** on the Stainor Valli place. The **Webbs** and the **Parks** lived somewhere — but where?

The **Hildebrandts** lived on N.E. 14-38-2-5, now owned by Duke Bell but best known as the Bertheuson place. The next people on that place were **Mr. and Mrs. Shacklock** and three boys, who came from England. **Mr. Shacklock** was a Veterinarian. **Mrs. Shacklock** died while they were living there. The oldest son, **Tom** married **Miss Elsie Price** who was raised by Judge Jones and **Mrs. Jones** of Lacombe and they took over the farm. A son and a daughter were born to Tom and Elsie. When they left Marianne, they went to the western states. Elsie didn't live very long after and Tom returned to England with the children. Later he went to live in Australia, where he spent many years before he died. He kept in touch with the Peter Cameron family and visited them once, from Australia.

Angus Martin spent a winter with the Bertheusons. When **Mr. Bertheuson** had to leave home to work in winter, 15 year-old Angus was engaged to stay with Marianne. There were no neighbors near and she was expecting their first child so it was not safe to be alone. It was an anxious horseback ride for young Angus when he had to go all the way to Burnt Lake to fetch the nearest mid-wife. It seems all went well as Mary Johanna was around for a long time after she arrived that night.

Miss Cossins of Pontix, Saskatchewan was not pleased with the job she came to in Marianne. She had come to work for L. Z. Medearis. At the end of one day, she walked over to the Walkers and she stayed with them for nearly a year. When the Walkers left Marianne, Miss Cossins went away too.

The **Art Reynolds family** lived in the Marianne district but as they were nearer to Burnt Lake, the children went to school there. The **Fred Grimson family** who owned that place for many years have also been more a part of Burnt Lake. See Burnt Lake for stories.

The **Maddens** lived on the Wesley Bott place in the 1920's. **Mr. Madden** served on the school board and their daughter, **Alva** went to Marianne school. **Owen Eckley** came next, in the early '30s. After a couple of years he

returned to eastern Washington, where he had come from. In later years, after the Leonard Rowans moved away, a **Rogers** family rented it for awhile. They moved to Lacombe from there.

Living at Marianne was an unhappy experience, for **Clarence and Lise Rowan and family**. Clarence was a younger brother of Leonard Rowan and when he and his family came from the east, they lived in the house on the farm. They had been there but a few months when Clarence was taken very ill and after a brief stay in the hospital, passed away. Neighbors gathered with the family for the burial at the Sylvan Lake cemetery. Soon after, Lise and the children returned east to where they'd come from.

Mrs. Millie Niemi had lost her husband, Oscar Niemi, shortly before she and her five children moved to the old Dingman place. They came from Brightview and when they left here, went to Salmon Arm and then to New Westminster. She remarried and lived in Oregon until her passing a few years ago. Her family are all in Oregon.

The D. Ammeter place had some short term renters between the Yorks and the Kenzles. **Mr. and Mrs. Frank Drabble** came from Cayley, followed by a **Mr. and Mrs. Grey**, their son, **Sandy**, and his wife **Buelah**. Two children were born to Sandy and Buelah while they lived at Marianne. The Greys all moved to Fort Saskatchewan from Marianne and a third child joined the family there. Next were the **Dave Bunce** family. Dave was handy at almost anything, giving a hand to neighbors wherever needed. He was called on for various non-medical veterinary jobs such as de-horning. Also with butchering and after leaving Marianne, operated butcher shops in both Sylvan Lake and Eckville.

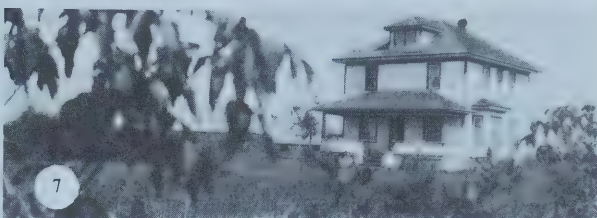
It was on the old Harry Bleay homestead where **Mr. and Mrs. Henry Jamoye, Marcelle and Sylvanne** lived in 1928-29-30. Both of the children were in the higher grades at Marianne school. When the family first left Marianne, they farmed for some years at the south edge of the town of Sylvan Lake, later moving into town where they remained for many years. By the time Henry Jamoye passed away, they had moved to Lacombe. **Mrs. Jamoye** remained in Lacombe with her son-in-law and daughter, **Eddie and Sylvanne Stunell**. After the death of **Mr. Stunell**, Sylvanne and her mother went to Edmonton. Having remarried, Sylvanne is **Mrs. Jim Watson**. After living many years in Edmonton, the Watsons moved to Peachland, B.C. in the fall of 1976. **Mrs. Jamoye** has lived with them and is in good health, in her nineties. **Marcelle** lived in Edmonton before going to New Zealand about 15 years ago.

Following the Jamoyes on that place, were the **Bates** family.

The N.W. of 19-38-1-5 has two acreages in the northwest corner. The **Pillar** family own the one built by **W. Seida**. The place built by **Lorne Peabody** had also been occupied by the **John Voiseys, Jon Hodnefields**, and now, **Mr. and Mrs. Hank Doe**.

Former people on the Jim Currie place were the **Harold Engmans** and **Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Martin**.

Renters on the Gus Podridski place have been the **Parkers, Ross** and **Richard Gascon** families. Present residents are the **Gerry Hillier** family.



1. Njorder Anderson homestead — 1906.
2. Pete Bertheuson homestead — 1925.
3. Erick Mannerfeldt homestead — 1915.
4. Alex Staudinger homestead — 1928.

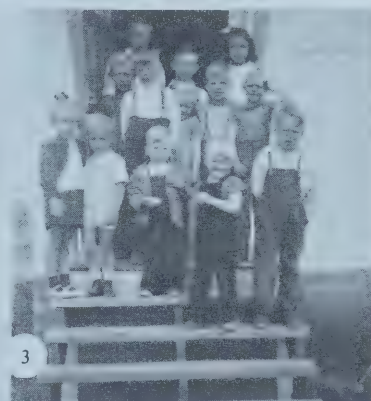
5. Remodelled Anderson home — 1919.
6. August Johnson home.
7. Jacob Valli home — 1928.
8. Remodelled Bertheuson home, 1925.



1. Moving the Dingman barn.
2. Moving R. Mannerfeldt's house.
3. Olsen house.
4. The Exodus — a new stove for mother.
5. The big "blow".
6. Moving Mannerfeldt's house.
7. Nawrot home.
8. Moving day for Ammeters.

Marianne Church Groups

Through The Years



1. Midsummer Day — June 24th — St. John's Day.
2. Apostolic Luthern Confirmation day picnic.
3. Sunday school — 1948.
4. Church picnic — 1931.

5. Confirmation class.
6. Marianne church group — before 1917.
7. Oscar Hilman's home — 1932.



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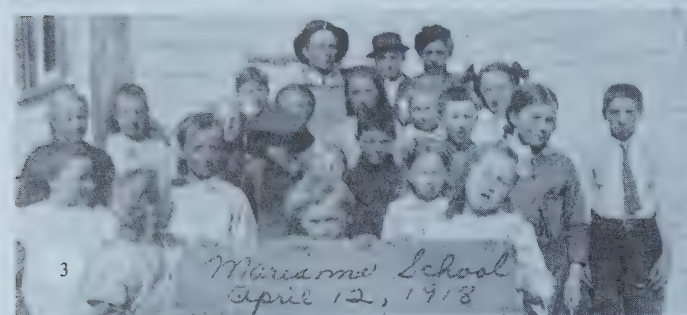
School
1. Marianne school.
2. Class in 1918.
3. Class in 1941.

4. Lunch time in 1918.
5. Red Cross quilt.
6. Class in 1943-44.



1. Grade eight — 1943-44.
2. 1951 class.
3. Class in 1938.
4. Skating on Tiijonen's slough.
5. Summer ball games.

6. Ball team in 1956.
7. Class in 1943.
8. Girls in 1956.
9. Class in 1943.
10. Class in 1954.



1. About 1920.
2. About 1918.
3. Marianne school, April 12, 1918.

4. Mrs. Learned's class 1920.
5. Marianne school children.
6. Mrs. Learned 1920.



1. Isabel Rowan's shower.

2. Marianne Women's club — lunch at Ida's.

3. Marianne Women's Club — about 1956.

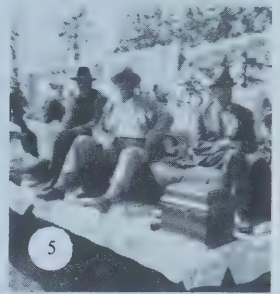
4. Club meeting at Hilda's.

5. Eila Tiuhonen's shower.

6. Marianne Women's club — Christmas party.



Marianne picnics
 1. The honeymoon race.
 2. Come and get it — Lillian Olson, Mrs. Tiihonen.
 3. Ed Tiihonen, Alex Kinnunen, Frank Sigurdson, Jack Britton, Helge Staudinger.
 4. School picnic — 1924. L.-R. — Selma Johnson, Vienna Valli, Alice Cameron. Seated — Ida Pass, Margaret (Peggy) Cameron.
 5. Another picnic.
 6. L.-R. — Tom Britton, Andy Doran, Wener Valli, Mr. Leitch, John Ammeter.
 7. Another honeymoon race.



1. Marianne Centennial float.
2. Reflections at the picnic — Tom Britton, Andy Doran.
3. 4-H club calves — Adrianne Valli, Clifford Staudinger.

4-5-6. Marianne float — 50 years.
7. Frank Sigurdson's antique truck.
8. Unidentified — Marianne-Red Deer station.



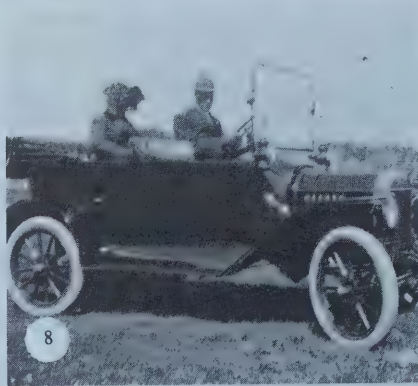
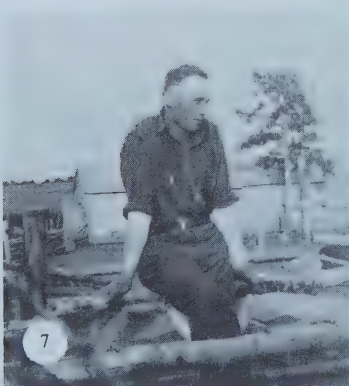
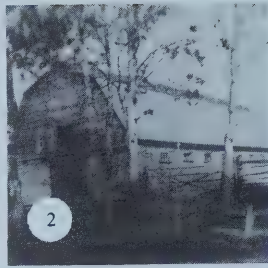
1. John Johnson's outfit.
2. Mike with his team and bundles.
3. Avery 12-25 tractor — 1919.
4. Valli gang at lunch.

5. The gang at work.
6. Staudinger-Kuores outfit.
7. The Hilman outfit.
8. One hundred per-cent hauled out.



1. Wood sawing at Wilf Kenzle's.
2. Wood sawing at Ammeters — 1947.
3. Getting in the winter's wood.

5. Wood sawing at Horlacher's.
6. There must be an easier way to keep warm — Jack Britton.
7. Another bee at Slim Robinson's.



1. Freighter with load of lumber — 1908. Njorder Anderson's house in background.

2. Njorder Anderson's stop-over barn.

3. Wilson Cameron in front of Slack's sod house.

4. George Anderson — breaking.

5. Lakeshore picnic — Gutterud, Soderquist and Anderson families.

6. Mrs. Walter Tiihonen feeding chickens.

7. Folke Mannerfeldt.

8. Early car.

9. Gus and Nellie.



1. A few big ones.
2. Picking radish pods — taken by Mrs. Mustard, Bleays and Bearchills.
3. A string of fish — Dingmans.
4. Fine pork chops.
5. Butchering.
6. Blueberry picking.
7. Hunting for threshers' meat, Mike and Ole Berth



1. Breaking a wide swath — Valli's.
2. Peter Bertheuson and boys in hayfield.
3. Six-horse team seeding.
4. Mowing hay.
5. Automatic unloading.

6. George Anderson and a ton of hay.
7. A family project.
8. Elmer Johnson and his team.
9. Wayne and Slim.
10. First combine in Marianne, 1942.



1. Boating — 1923.
2. Mr. and Mrs. Phil Hilman.
3. Ole's bug.
4. Look whose driving.
5. Kinnunen's snowman.
6. Four musketeers.

7. Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Valli, seated by car. Seated to left — Mr. Dingman, Ida Dingman, Irene Medearis, Cecelia Medearis, Emma Dingman and Vienna Valli.
8. Country boys to town — Saturday night. Back seat — Ed Kaila, Amos Solonon. Front seat, driver Ed Valli, unidentified — Dingwalls boarding house.
9. Another way to travel.



1. Janet Robinson's wedding.
2. How boys climb trees.
3. Motherly instinct — Brittons and Mannerfeldts.

4. Periches — gone to the dogs.
5. Rosemarie Kenzle wedding.
6. Fun at Pine Lake.
7. Four Grandmother's.



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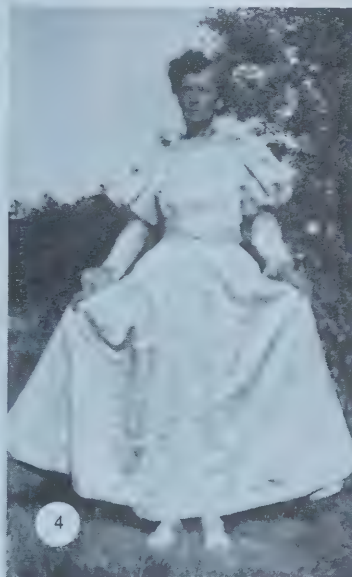
1. Milk haul truck.
2. Duke Bell — milk man.
3. Hank Edmunds — bob cat.
4. Fun in the snow — Bell sisters.

5. Gus Olson, Charlie Johnson, Lily Olson, Mrs. Leeti.
6. 4-H calf. Clifford Staudinger.
7. 4-H calf — Wes Bott.
8. Another honeymoon race.



1. Peter Bertheuson in woodpile.
2. Marianne Bertheuson doing chores.
3. Original Bertheuson home in foreground. Johanna feeding sheep.
4. Bertheuson's on the way to town.

5. Four young bachelors.
6. Another Marianne school picnic — early years.
7. Group of Marianne young people.
8. Farewell party for Leonnie Ammeter.
9. Ragnar Mannerfeldt and his mother's model-T.



1. Ragnar Mannerfeldt, Esther Schill, Ed Mannerfeldt, Annie Schill. Front — Henry Johnson, Sam Rasmussen, Emil Schill, Chris Rasmussen.

2. Elmer Johnson, Ed Valli, Wayne Kuores, Stainor Valli.

3. Gutterud sisters.

4. Lillian Olson, modelling her mother's wedding gown.

5. Ernest and Allan Myer — 1935.

6. On the dog house, 1926.

7. Back — Violet Kuores, Ida Holoppa, Lillian Valli, Vienna Valli. Front — Ida Pass, Aili Valli.



1. Clearing land the hard way.
2. View from the crow's nest.
3. King size spuds.
4. Two generations of bush-whackers.
5. Fire.

6. Jim Currie — taxidermist.
7. Ten dollar rig.
8. Marianne bathing beauties.
9. Marianne in the horseraces — Benalto — 1920 — Andersons.



1. Local early ball team.
2. Mrs. Alex Staudinger.
3. Ted Dale with Elmer Johnson's six horse team.
4. L.-R. — Mrs. Gutterud, Marie, Mr. Gutterud, Neil Leitch, Charlie Johnson.
5. Karina Staudinger in England.
6. Grease monkeys.



1. Hazel Johnson and her apples.
2. Mrs. Sandbury and niece Rosalee Johnson and husband.
3. Mrs. Elmer, Mrs. August and Selma Johnson.

4. Miss Ida Josephine Rahja standing with the Alex Staudinger family.
5. Arthur Johnson with Elmer's stallion.
6. Bley house — note dove-tail corners.

Money to Loan.

Justice of the Peace.

Dick Bleay, Auctioneer,

EVARTS - ALTA.

Official Auditor

Game Warden

FARMS, IMPROVED AND UNIMPROVED, FOR SALE.

AUTHORIZATION

As under Section 4a of The School Grants Act.

I hereby authorize the giving of instruction
in the work of Grade IX at the School in

Manitou S. D. No. 2161

for the June 30 term, 1936

W. J. McLean
Inspector of Schools.

Date May 7, 1936

N.B.—This is valid only for the term indicated.

For School District File.

600⁰⁰

\$ 16841 No. 16841

Department of the Interior.

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOL LANDS.

RECEIVED from Manitou Winnipeg, Man. NOV 20 1920 191

of _____

the sum of _____ Dollars,

on account of purchase price of _____ Section _____

_____ Township 38 Range 2 West

5 P. M.

Superintendent.

A Penalty of 5 per cent. is added to all unpaid taxes on the first of January and 5 per cent. is added on the first of July each year following the year in which they are levied.

ORIGINAL

(RURAL)

SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 2161

No. 61

PROVINCE OF ALBERTA

\$ 18.31

Date Feb 22 1927

Tax Receipt

Received from Mrs R. Munnich

the sum of Eighteen and 31/100 DOLLARS

To be applied in payment of Taxes as follows:

Plan No.	Lot	Block	Sub-Div.	Taxes	Arrears	Total	Years	Total
Part of Sec.	Sec.	Tp.	Rg.	Mer.	Current	and Interest.	Due	Paid
16	15	28	2	5	19 90			1927
					1 59			
					18 31			
								18 31

H. E. Borsman
Secretary-Treasurer.

FORM 1

THIS CERTIFICATE IS NOT TRANSFERABLE—SEE SECTION 7 SUB-SECTION (a) THE CANADIAN WHEAT BOARD ACT, 1935

FIXED PRICE 87½¢ PER BUSHEL
BASIS No. 1 NORTHERN, FORT WILLIAM

THE CANADIAN WHEAT BOARD
Producer's Certificate—1935 Crop

No 236570 D

NAME OF PRODUCER

DATE Nov 25 1935

P.O. ADDRESS

PROVINCE

NET BUSHELS (IN WORDS)

BUSHEL LBS.

GRADE

PRICE 55

CASH TICKET No. or
ACCOUNT SALE No.

CAR No.

NET BUSHELS IN FIGURES

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT THE ABOVE NAMED PRODUCER HAS DELIVERED TO THE CANADIAN WHEAT BOARD THE QUANTITY AND GRADE OF WHEAT STATED HEREIN AND THAT THE PRODUCER HAS RECEIVED THEREFOR THE FIXED PRICE ACCORDING TO GRADE AND PLACE OF DELIVERY AS AUTHORIZED BY THE BOARD AND APPROVED BY THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL. UPON SURRENDER OF THIS CERTIFICATE THE PRODUCER SHALL BE ENTITLED TO SHARE IN THE SURPLUS, IF ANY, REALIZED FROM THE MARKETING OF THE WHEAT PURCHASED BY THE BOARD OF THE SAME GRADE AFTER DEDUCTING THEREFROM A PROPORTIONATE SHARE OF THE MONEYS DISBURSED BY OR ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD FOR EXPENSES.

SIGNED ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD:

THE ALBERTA PACIFIC GRAIN CO. LTD.
(NAME OF COMPANY)

(PERMIT No.)

STATION

STATION No.

PER

AGENT

NOTE:—THIS CERTIFICATE SHOULD BE CAREFULLY PRESERVED FOR SURRENDER TO THE BOARD WHEN REQUIRED

1907.

Sale of Mrs L. E. Thatcher

1	set double harness	
2	bridle	
3	spring	
4	grindstone	
5	fish net	
6	box of iron truck	
7	mc Cormac blades	
8	shoe outfit etc	
9	square	
10	plane, etc	
11	Cross Cut & hand saw	
12	2 single trees	
13	shovel etc	
14	Spade & 2 Axes	
15	Hoe & fork	
16	Fork	
17	double harness	
18	mower	
19	Rake	
20	Break plow waggon Plow	
21	waggon	
22	stighs	
23	Rack	
24	lumber	
25	Cow - blue & white	
26	" & Calf - red with hot tail	
27	" red with crooked horn	
28	" " white spots on belly	
29	" " black tips	
30	5 yearling steers @ 13 ⁰⁰ each	
31	6 " heifers " 9 ⁵⁰	
32	Black heifer Calf white face	
33	" " " spot on belly	
34	Red steer " string on neck	

This is not Dick Bleay writing but came out at his book.



Back L-R — Joyce Shepherd, Isabel Rowan, Daisy Britton, unidentified, Elna Staudinger, unidentified, Doris Juuti, Anne Ammeter. Front — unidentified, June Huget, Delores Doran.



Joyce Shepherd, Isobel Rowan, Leona Ammeter — Miller, Margaret Learned, Delores Doran



Mrs. P. N. Cameron and family while living in Marianne.



Mr. and Mrs. Gray — 60 years married.



Mr. Tom Shaclock.



Johnson brothers at mother's grave.



John Ammeter — Russian dance.



The Happy Gang — 1945 — Larry Holoppa, Dood Staniforth, Russel Stauffer, Jack Britton, Bill Staniforth, Ragnar Mannerfeldt. Front — Bobby Bramall, Dennis Bramall, Wayne Pitkanen, Larry Peters, Donny Pitkanen, Alvin Todd.



Marianne school — 1949-50. Back — Calvin Kenzle, Eila Kinnunen, Lawrence Kenzle, Rosemarie Kenzle, Ellen Tiuhonen. Middle — Violet Brown, Carmen Staudinger, Clifford Staudinger, Ralph Kenzle, Merle Hilman, Elaine Kuores, Jane Hilman, Curt Olson. Front — Gerald Hilman, Adrian Valli, Clifford Kenzle, Florence Brown.

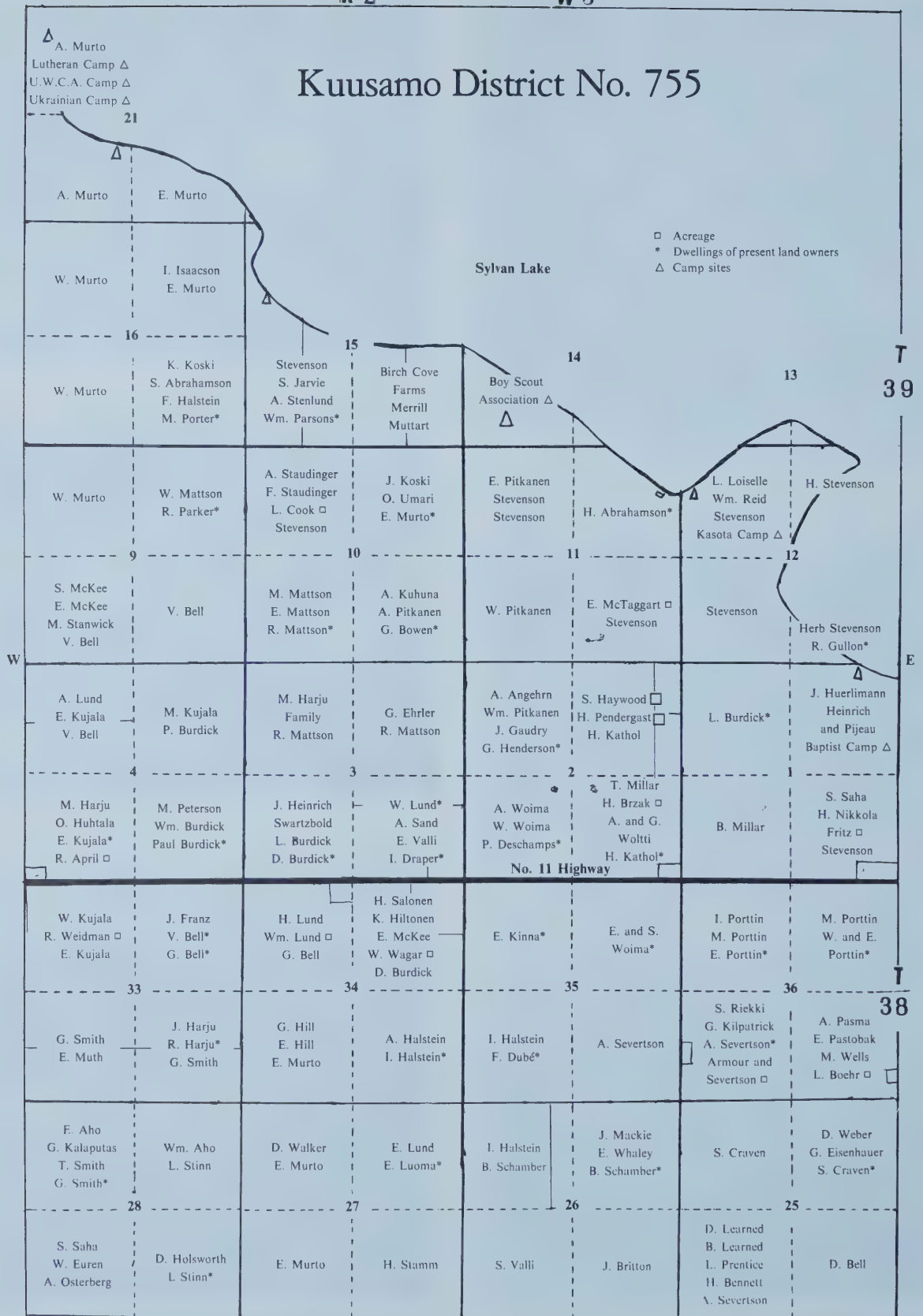


Peter Cameron family. Back — Mr. and Mrs. Cameron. Front — Grant, Wilson, Alice and Peggy.



Sgt. C. Anne Johnson C.W.A.C. Sgt. H. R. Johnson R.C.A.F. taken on discharge 1946.

Kuusamo District No. 755



KUUSAMO

KUUSAMO SCHOOL — by Mrs. Ena Kinna

The minute books of Kuusamo School District No. 755, Northwest Territories, have been kept intact since the first meeting held on August 17, 1902.

That first meeting held at the home of A. Parvi was for the purpose of declaring the posting of notices that a school district was about to be formed. At least forty families — the majority originally from Finland — had moved here from the United States, and were residing on homesteads — hence the need for a school.

Two of the first residents, Peter Wetelainen and A. Parvi, were given straws to draw. The one drawing the shortest straw had the privilege of naming the school. Mr. Wetelainen won and named the district "Kuusamo" after the place where he was born in Finland. The word meaning "a place where spruce trees grow," in Finnish.

On November 3, 1902, the ratepayers elected their first trustees: Alex Kinnunen, August Halstein and August Pass with J. W. W. Slack as secretary-treasurer, collector and assessor. This office Mr. Slack held efficiently almost continuously until December, 1919.

The Commissioner of Education in Regina, Northwest Territories, wrote asking the Board to select a site for the school. A central available spot, the northwest corner of the SW 25-38-2-5, was chosen and purchased for \$10.00. This was C.P.R. land.

January, 1903, minutes bear a seal worded "Kuusamo School District No. 755 N.W.T."

In February, the ratepayers voted on a bylaw to borrow \$600.00 to build and furnish a school, pay for the site and transact any other business arising. The Poll Book shows they decided to raise the loan.

In May, Mr. Slack's contract bid of \$93.00 for building the school was accepted. The building was made out of unplanned lumber, had a shingled roof and a brick chimney. Desks and blackboards were purchased. A big iron stove, sitting in the middle of the room heated the school until 1919. Poplar firewood, cut, split, and piled, supplied by ratepayers, cost anywhere from 53¢ a cord in the later '20's and the '30's and \$1.70 per cord following World War I and in the '40's.

In the records we find "December 3, 1903, W. J. McDonald, teacher, was paid \$75.00 by cheque and later \$55.00 by government grant". That places Mr. McDonald as the first teacher.

The secretary-treasurer received a salary of \$30.00 in 1903. Mrs. Jacob Mackie was paid \$3.00 for keeping the school clean.



Kuusamo School — 1920.

Unfortunately the first registers were not preserved so it would be impossible for anyone to recall the names of all the first pupils. However, the families and bachelors living within the boundaries of that huge district were:

Boundaries, E. — Sylvan Lake Main Street; W. — six miles west of Main Street; N. — Lake shore line; S. — four miles south of today's Highway No. 11.

Before 1900: Oscar Norby, Pete Bertheuson.

1900: Matt Kaila, Alex Kinnunen, Jacob Mackie, Arvi Parvi, Lars Peterson, Alex Pasma, August Pass, Victor Pastobak, J. W. W. Slack, James Reynolds, Peter Wetelainen, Njorder Anderson, Mr. Hildebrant, Mr. Aatu Kangas.

1901: August Halstein, Gust Hill, August Johnson, Matt Kujala, Arvi Leeti, Henry Lund, Matt Mattson, Mike Peterson, Jack Staudinger, Mr. Andrew Kuhuna, Isaac Porttin, S. A. Riekkii, Sam Saha, Henry Salonen, Andrew Woima, Andrew Woltti.

1902-1903-1904-1905: Jacob Ropsfelt, Sylvester Saha, Abraham Holappa, John Hendrickson, Alfred, Victor, and Alex Staudinger, Gust Kalaputas, Jacob Valli, Fred Ward, Dick Bleay (the first auctioneer), Joseph Huerlimann, August Louquet and sister (taxidermists), Mr. Stevenson, August Angehrn, Ed Aho, John Uster, Wm. Aho, Louis Loiselle, Adam McPherson, Gustave Ehrler, John Koski, Joe Rousse, Siefert Jarvie, Edmond Rousse, August Lund, Rev. Hjelt.

School opened April 1, 1904, then closed for July and August and was in session all September, October and November. In 1908 the school was closed due to lack of



Kuusamo School children — 1913.

funds. In 1909' a fir floor was laid and a stone foundation added. In 1910, Province of Alberta replaced N.W.T. in the minutes.

December 12, 1911, a special meeting was called to select a new site for the school. It had to be moved owing to alterations in the district boundaries made by the Department of Education. Inspector J. F. Boyce recommended a two-acre site on the northwest corner of 35-38-2-5, owned by F. A. Dischinger, Toledo, Ohio. It was offered free of charge as long as it was used for school purposes. The old grounds were sold to D. B. Learned for \$10.00. Mr. Salonen cleared the new site by June, 1912. R. Murphy moved the building for the sum of \$275.00.

In 1915 taxes were \$14.00 per quarter. Janitor received \$48.00; secretary-treasurer \$50.00.

In the fall of 1918, Matt Mattson and August Pitkanen Jr. died from Spanish Influenza and the school was closed for a while.

A 16' by 24' stable was built on the grounds. Bob-sleigh and cutter-loads of children came from every direction. Some came on horseback, the rest walked — sometimes up to the hips through snow, sometimes circling or crossing a water puddle on a raft.

For a number of years, as a nature study project, garden plots were made alongside two fences. The pupils planted and took care of the vegetables and flowers. Spruce trees were planted on the north side along the road but were destroyed when Highway No. 11 was widened in 1954.

A Two-roomed Rural School

In 1919 tenders were called for the erection of a second classroom out of lumber, having a cement foundation, with a seating capacity for 45 pupils. Mr. Eline's tender of \$1,587.00 was accepted. Waterbury room furnaces were installed in a corner of both rooms. The Board Members at this time were S. E. McKee, August Halstein and T. B. Millar. The caretaker now received \$100.00 per year; secretary-treasurer \$50.00; senior room (grades six to ten inclusive) teacher \$1400.00 and junior room (grades one to five inclusive) \$900.00. Taxes were 25¢ per acre.

Rugby and basketball were introduced for the first time by H. G. Laycock. Social evenings were held at the school. Entertainment consisted of programs, debates, sing songs, box socials, shadow socials, games, dancing and, later, projector and lantern slides were obtained and viewed, sponsored by the Kuusamo Literary Society.

In 1920, school always opened the middle of August because the school year was 210 days. December to February inclusive, and school opened at 9:30 a.m. instead of 9:00.

In 1922 hauling drinking water from neighboring wells was eliminated because a well was drilled. Water was in a crock or a milk can with a tap. Pupils had individual cups. In this year Kuusamo School joined the school fair. Garden produce, grain and school work were exhibited and judged by Inspector A. R. Gibson and assistants. There were also sports. This fair continued until 1929.

Tragedy struck the district in the spring of 1926. Three of the school children died of diphtheria inside of ten days. They were Thorwald, Helga and Oili, children of Mr. and Mrs. Nels Gutterud. The school was fumigated and closed for a few days. Four other Gutterud members were ill but fortunately the disease did not spread into other homes.

In 1928, a 200-day school year started. School opened September 1st, instead of the middle of August.

In 1929 the Junior room pupils won the Strathmore Trust Physical Training Shield for the Red Deer Inspectorate and a scholarship for the teacher. Kuusamo School pupils won several prizes at the Inspectorate Festival held at Red Deer in May, 1934. Plays, recitations, solos, duets and choruses were entered. Mary Learned (Mrs. James Backhaus) of Denver, Colorado, still has her Grade VIII girls' solo medal.

In September, 1934, the senior room was closed because the government cut the high school grant. Grades one to nine inclusive were taught in the older building because it was much bigger. A hot drink or canned soup was supplied in the winter months to all children to supplement their lunches. Red Deer Inspectorate track and field was held at Red Deer in May. Children were transported by cars and each took his lunch. There were many winners in the two years it was done. Two winners mentioned are Hugh Learned and Ernest Swartzbold.

In 1935, beginners started school every spring — for the last time. In 1936-1937, a hot casserole was made and served at noon. The school purchased its first piano.

1938-1939, the school became part of the Rocky Mountain School Division No. 15. A skating rink was built in the school yard and a very active Kuusamo Ladies' Club sponsored skating parties and hockey games.

Centralization took place in 1952. All students, grades one to eleven, were transported by bus to the Benalto School in September. The members of the last board of trustees were Emil Mattson, Lynn Burdick and Ernest Kinna. The latter acted as secretary as well. The high school building was moved away. The site was sold to Ernest Kinna for the sum of \$50.00. The original school was purchased by Ernest Woima.

Mention should be made of the school Christmas programs which were held practically every year since about 1913, in the school or the Elspeth Hall which was two miles west. They were the highlight of the year as expressed by both participants and spectators but they made hours of overtime for teachers. Most of the practicing was done at noon and after school. Every Christmas 1925-1935, the school entertained about 300 people in a gaily decorated hall, with a two-hour variety program. Following the Nativity Scene, there were acrostics, drills, dialogues, pantomimes, monologues, folk-dances, solos, choruses and tableaux. Then Santa appeared in a fur overcoat, jingles, mask and red pointed hat, distributing presents from teachers to pupils, and vice-versa. Real colored candles were lit on the spruce tree in the corner; 120 candy bags were distributed; lunch was served. This was followed by a dance that lasted until three in the morning. The writer with two assistants played for the dance — all donated work.

Church services were held in the schoolhouse or in homes. The following ministers have resided in this dis-

trict: Reverend O. Hjelt and family filed a homestead but returned to the United States. He held Bible school for the young people. Reverend Korhonen and family came next. He served the district a number of years, but passed away here and is buried in the Kuusamo Cemetery. Mrs. Korhonen and two children returned to the United States. Reverend Harju and Mrs. Harju also from the States, being musical, contributed much in sacred music. They taught violin. Acting Pastor Andrew Bellikka served the Apostolic Lutheran congregation. Reverend and Mrs. Wallis, from Finland, specialized in choir work. The Finnish Evangelical Lutheran church owned a hall and manse on NE 26-38-2-5, then owned by S. A. Riekki. The church was sold and moved away. The manse is the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ben Chambers.

Inspectors mentioned in the minutes are: J. F. Boyce, mentioned first; Mr. Dwyer, mentioned in 1918; A. R. Gibson, about 1920-1934; W. J. McLean, 1934-1936; L. A. Thurber, 1936-1939; H. Ross, 1939-1941; Mr. Deverell, 1949-1950; and F. Barnes, 1950-1952.

Teachers: Fall of 1903, J. M. McDonald; 1904, Miss S. J. Shepherd and A. M. Monroe; 1903, James Brackenridge; 1906, James F. Fowler and T. R. Richards; 1907, Mr. Milward; 1908, school closed; 1910, Mr. Levinge; 1909, Miss Maggie Braton; August, 1911, Mr. H. Ludwig; January to July, 1911, Mrs. M. A. J. Millar; 1912, Mrs. Ida Walker; January, 1913 to December, 1915, Miss Emma Gudmundson (Mrs. A. Kinna and Mrs. F. Jenkins); January, 1916-1918, Mrs. A. J. Millar.

Two Rooms — 1919 to 1934

Senior, Harry Laycock, 1919 all grades, 6 to 11 inclusive; Junior, 1 to 5, Maude Burdick (Mrs. H. Earl); Senior, now 6 to 10, Mr. V. Messenger; Junior, Mrs. V. Messenger; Senior, Mrs. M. A. J. Millar, six years; Junior, Miss Elsie Miller; Junior, Miss Alice Clark; Miss Ella Sihvon; Miss Ena Woima (Mrs. Ernest Kinna); Miss Bessie Gilliland (Mrs. James Millar); Senior, Miss Laura Norton (Mrs. William Holsworth); Junior, Ena Woima (Mrs. E. Kinna); Senior, Mr. Glen Paul.

1936-1939, Miss Steffie Chabon (Mrs. Ernest Woima); 1939-1941, Miss M. I. Gilbert (Mrs. Al Lechelt); 1941-1943, Mrs. Ernest Woima; 1943-1952, Mrs. William Holsworth.

THE KUUSAMO HISTORY

The Kuusamo history would not be complete without honoring the young men in the two World Wars. In World War I, the following were overseas in the army: B. C. Learned, Emil Mattson, Walfred Kujala, Orme McKee, Victor Pastobak, William Pass, Gust Maki and John Woltti. Felix Halstein was called but didn't pass, due to a previous foot injury.

World War II saw our young men in the army, navy and airforce. Those in the army were: Walter Lund, Helge Abrahamson, Derwood Peters, William Smith, Thomas Smith and Charles Millar. Wayne (Waino) Abrahamson and Wayne Staudinger were in the airforce and Frank Staudinger in the navy.

Some were wounded or gassed while overseas, but we are thankful and happy they all returned home.

SYLVAN MEADOWS ACADEMY — by the pupils Part SE ¼-25-38-2-5

Sylvan Meadows Academy is a Christian educational training-center for youth of the junior-high and



Sylvan Meadows Academy.

elementary levels. Christian principles have first place in determining its policies and standards. It is the school's purpose too: impart a thorough knowledge of the Bible as the word of God; teach obedience to its principles; promote reverence to God and thoughtful kindness to our fellow-man, lead our students by means of a Christian philosophy of life to know God and to enjoy a daily walk with Him; provide our nation with good citizens into whose hands can be placed the prosperity of our nation which was founded on spiritual freedom and protection.

Based on the above principles, the members of the Sylvan Lake Seventh-day Adventist church decided they wanted a church school built in this area. The final decision was not made until the spring of 1975. They contacted ABEM construction of Lacombe, to draw up construction blue-prints for the school. Securing of building permits held up construction until early fall.

Two committees were nominated to plan the school: the building committee consisting of Arthur Severtson, George Bell, David Lifford; and the finance committee consisting of Duke Bell and Leo Ganson.

Ted Andrews, a pastor-carpenter, was contacted to oversee the construction of the building, and he was paid the regular ministerial salary. Mr. Louis Bohr put in the heating system, Mr. Yeo did the electrical wiring and the plumbing was done by Ted Andrews with the permit issued by Wilf Schultz. The carpet was laid by Les Eaton of the Carpet Cabin in Lacombe. All other work was done voluntarily by men of the church.

The 70 acres on which the school is situated was donated by Duke Bell. The situation was ideal because it had a country setting, a lot of open space for recreation and enough tillable land to implement a work-study program in the future. There is also room for expansion if required. A few lots were looked at in the town of Sylvan Lake but the price, size and location proved unfavorable. The funds used to finance the building of the school came from the Seventh-day Adventist Conference

in Calgary, various donations from interested people, and a bank loan.

The school is operated by a local school board nominated by the Sylvan Lake Church on a yearly basis. The first year's board members were as follows: chairman, Vince Bell; secretary, Mary Ann Bell; treasurer, Ralph Seland; assistant treasurer, Evelyn Bell; other members were Leo Ganson, Pastor Chapman, David Lifford, Keith Leavitt, Ted Andrews. The present year's members are: chairman, Vince Bell; secretary, Edna Mannerfeldt; treasurer, Ron Simanton; Evelyn Bell, Guy Fitch, Paster Chapman, Leo Ganson. This board meets monthly to plan for operating and finances for the school, to set up regulations regarding discipline, and to recommend the hiring of staff members.

The first classes were held in the basement of the Sylvan Lake Seventh-day Adventist Church in September, 1975. There was one large room which was divided in half by portable chalk boards. Grades 5, 6, and 10 were one side and 7 to 9 were on the other. Grades 1 to 4 were located in another smaller room. Noon hours and recesses were spent playing various recreational activities on the rest of the church lot. The students moved into the new school building on March 1, 1976.

Forty-seven names for the new school were submitted by students and parents to a committee consisting of Doreen Lifford, Jenny Fitch and Keith Leavitt. Three names were chosen, and from these the congregation chose the name "Sylvan Meadows Academy".

The teachers for the school year 1975-76 were: Mr. Leo Ganson, principal; Mr. Keith Leavitt (now teaching in Karachi, Pakistan); Mrs. Arlene Arndt, grades 1 to 4 and grade 9 and 10 Home Economics. Mrs. Olive Smith has taken over Mrs. Arndt's position in teaching grades 1 to 4. She also teaches some classes in grades 5 and 6. Mr. Walter Schram replaced Mr. Leavitt. Mrs. Judy Gorbenko and Mrs. Virginia Schram have offered courses in crafts to the grades 7 to 9 girls. Grade 10

Home Economics is taught by Mrs. Arlene Arndt. Teachers in the local area sometimes aid in substitute duties.

In 1975-76 there were thirty-four students enrolled from Grades 1 to 10. There were forty-three students enrolled at the beginning of the 1976-77 school year and the total number of students for the present semester is forty-nine. The school is open to non-adventist students if they are willing to abide by the rules and attend Bible classes.

The Seventh-day Adventist Conference finances 45% of the teachers' salaries. The rest of the financing, including salaries, textbooks, utilities, paper supplies, etc., must be paid by the school. A tuition of \$35.00 for grades 1 to 8 and \$50.00 for grades 9 and 10 is charged to help cover these costs. This tuition is either paid by the family, a sponsoring adult, or the church.

Transportation to Sylvan Meadows Academy varies from snowmobiles in the winter to walking in the spring. Some students come as far as Rocky Mountain House. The closer locations are Bentley, Red Deer and Sylvan Lake. Students that live in the nearby area walk or take the country bus, but in most instances the students have to be driven. The twelve students who come from Red Deer are bussed in by a station-wagon, owned and operated by Mrs. Joy Becker. The students that come from Rocky area are bussed in by Pastor Chapman and other students from the surrounding towns have their own transportation provided by parents or themselves.

In 1975-76 the school followed the provincial curriculum for grades 1 to 10 with the study of the Bible and Biblical truths followed in all subject matter. A minimum of basic subjects was offered for grade ten. Elective courses were taken by correspondence. Shop for grades 7 to 9 and Home Economics for 7 to 10 were offered for electives along with band for everyone interested. For the cooking part of Home Economics, church members' homes were used. For the year 1976-77 the provincial curriculum was again followed with Grade 10 subjects broadened.

One of the school's philosophies is the education of all talents given to us by the Lord. In accordance with this, each student from grade 5 to 10 was encouraged to obtain and learn to play an instrument which would become a part of the band. We had nearly 100% participation of students. The band was able to play two or three Christmas songs at the first Christmas concert. The band also put on a church service in the Seventh-day Adventist church and at the Sylvan Lake Lodge. The band this year shows greater progress with concerts presented in the church and Lodge. They are currently practicing for the Red Deer festival with plans being made for spring concerts in May or June. Mr. Ganson conducts the band with two to three hours of practice per week. At present there are twenty-seven band members.

A skating rink has been built at the school. The boys' shop class constructed the fence and skate-shack. Outdoor sports are encouraged and ardently pursued by the pupils and the teachers.

KUUSAMO CEMETERY NO. 1 — by Mrs. Ena Kinna

The first Kuusamo Cemetery, 1.66 acres, is on A. Parvi homestead, NW 24-38-2-5, now owned by Philip Hilman. It has not been used or maintained for many

years. A letter, dated May 17, 1910, lists the following persons in this cemetery company: Alex Kinnunen, John Kinnunen, P. M. Wetelainen, A. Holoppa, J. W. W. Slack, A. H. Kinnunen, Aug. Johnson, Ilmar Hyvonen, Isaac Porttin and N. Matt Porttin. This letter bears the seal of the Provincial Secretary, signed by E. Trow, Deputy Provincial Secretary.

Mr. Charlie Johnson, son of August Johnson, now residing at Sylvan Lake, recently found the title of the Kuusamo Cemetery, No. 98 T2, two receipts, minutes of two meetings, and a page recording dates, ages and names of three deaths. Mr. Johnson estimates there are a dozen or so graves in this cemetery.

Mr. August Johnson's twin sons (premature birth) and an infant daughter, Meimi, born May 4, 1901, are buried in this first Kuusamo Cemetery (not on record page).

The minutes, written in Finnish language, translated, read as follows: "Kuusamo Cemetery Co. met at the home of A. H. Kinnunen, March 3, 1923, with August Johnson presiding.

A. Johnson and A. H. Kinnunen were elected to get the records from Mrs. Slack. It was decided to fence the cemetery grounds by the first of the month with A. H. Kinnunen in charge.

Safekeeping of cemetery papers was discussed. August Johnson promised to store them in the bank or at home.

Motion was passed unanimously to purchase two rolls of wire in addition to supply on hand. A. Johnson volunteered to see it was delivered to the grounds. Sec. Matt Porttin.

KUUSAMO CEMETERY NO. 2 — by Mrs. Ena Kinna

The second Kuusamo Cemetery is a two-acre parcel of land bordering Highway No. 11, donated by the late Henry Lund, Sr. His daughter, Maimie, was the first interment.

Through the years, very efficient directors working with little or no remuneration held meetings, kept records, sent returns to Vital Statistics, Edmonton, called annual clean-up bees and saw that the grounds were kept in order.

Small fees were collected occasionally from plot owners, or next of kin, to up-keep the roads, fences, a tool-shed, and for trucking loam. Family plots are now sold for \$10.00. In recent years, the Red Deer County has assisted with a Cemetery grant of \$50.00 a year.

Men who have served on the Cemetery Board are: Gust Hill, Matt Harju, Henry Lund Jr., Emil Mattson, August Pitkanen, Arthur Stenlund, Elmer Hill, Oiva Huhtala and Wm. Johnson. Henry Lund Jr. has been the secretary and Emil Mattson, a director, continuously from 1918 to 1970.

The 1977 Board Members are: president, Roy Mattson; secretary-treasurer, Wm. Lund, Laverene Stinn and Iver Halstein. Wm. Lund donated an acre to the grounds before selling his quarter. The surveying was done free of charge by Norman Mattson of the Edmonton and Corrdinate Survey's Ltd.

From the Red Deer County News, Friday, October 2, 1970— "Henry Lund, secretary of Kuusamo Cemetery request for Cemetery Grant to assist in maintenance costs. Moved by Councillor L. Erickson that the \$50.00

Cemetery Maintenance Grant for the Kuusamo Cemetery be approved. Carried”.

From the Red Deery County News, November 6, 1970 — “Kuusamo Cemetery — A request has been received from a former member of the Kuusamo Cemetery Board for the County to take over the operation of the cemetery. The Secretary suggested that if this was the general feeling of the Cemetery Board, a letter to this effect should be written to the Council, before any action is taken. All discussions have been verbal to this point”.

KUUSAMO HALLS

It has been a characteristic of practically every Finnish settlement in Canada to build a hall for a community center. There were two halls in Kuusamo.

ELSPETH HALL — by Mrs. Guy Fitch

This hall was first located about two and one-half miles north of the Benalto corner on No. 11 highway, and one-half mile east. It and the Young People's Hall were located only one-quarter mile apart. Both were built by Finnish churches and organizations.

The Elspeth Hall was first known as the “Socialist Hall” and was built about 1910, by the Eckville local of the Finnish Democratic party of Canada by volunteer labor. The hall was 40' x 62' with the kitchen built under the large stage. The acoustics were very good because the ceiling above the stage was lowered. An invisible “promptor's box” for plays was located below and near the front of the stage.

Some years later the hall was moved with horses to the north side of No. 11 highway, one and one-quarter miles west of the Kuusamo Cemetery near the C.N.R.

crossing, by the Finnish Organization of Canada. Now the kitchen was built on the east side and at the north end, where the stage was, and was used as a dressing room for plays, as well as for preparing lunches and meals. At both locations, the hall was used for Finnish plays (that were two and one half hours-long), picnics, dances, conventions, lectures and gymnastics. At Elspeth Hall, the Kuusamo School Christmas concerts were held for many years.

For a few years, Lauri Wirta, from Finland, instructed a gymnastic class of 22 young men. They did boxing, wrestling, weight lifting, tumbling, pyramids, 100-yard dashes and three-mile races. All were dressed in white uniforms and looked very attractive at their performances. The ladies had a Finnish Ladies' Club of about 20 members. They did sewing and knitting that was sold to raise money for charity, both locally and elsewhere. This local was a part of an Alberta-wide Finnish organization and the picture shows delegates from other locals, such as Trochu, Blairmore, and Coleman attending a two-or three-day convention at the hall. The visiting members were hosted by the local members.

In the fifties, the organization ceased to function and the Elspeth Hall was sold for \$900.00 to the Ukrainian Organization of Canada. It was moved by a truck to a six-acre lot bought from Mrs. Minnie Johnson, on the west end of Sylvan Lake next to the Y.W.C.A. camp.

The records were destroyed by fire so the names of the officers and directors are not available.

UNITY HALL — by Mrs. Guy Fitch

About the year 1923, Mr. August Staudinger and Miss Venla Keltikangas, who was recently from Alajarvi, Finland, felt the need of a Finnish young people's



Elspeth Hall.



Unity Hall with a Finnish church group — 1925.

organization in the area. It was to help the present generation to have a better knowledge of the Finnish language and ethics. At first this society was called “Nuori Seuran Kokous” and conducted the meetings in Finnish, but they soon realized there were not enough young people who could read or write the language to fill the offices. In about a year’s time, the club was changed into English and was renamed the “Young People’s Society”. In 1924 one acre of cultivated land was donated by Mr. S. A. Riekk on the northeast corner of NE 26-38-2-5 and the Unity Hall was built that fall by volunteer labor. It was approximately 36’ x 60’ and had cedar shingles and siding, which was painted white. It also had a stage, cloak rooms, a wood-burning box stove, and a counter for serving lunch. The floor was of hard maple and, when waxed, was one of the best dance floors in central Alberta. The hall was set on a cement foundation. The Young People’s Society had dances, plays, meetings, and numerous other community social events at this hall. Also, before it became a church, it was used by different Finnish denominations for church services, choirs and picnics.

Since none of the society’s records are now available, it is not possible to name all the presidents, secretaries or directors who held offices at any time.

Being located only three miles from Sylvan Lake, where there were three large halls, the need of a rural hall became less necessary. The society was disbanded and the hall was sold to the Finnish Evangelical Lutheran Church. After the expenses were paid the balance was donated to the Red Cross.

In 1935 a log manse was built by Karl Soderlund, Sr., and was occupied by Finnish ministers. The church services were conducted for several years until 1947 when the building was sold as an additional school at Sylvan Lake and was moved to the school site. Later it was moved again and is now the town’s machine shop, located south across the street from the Pool elevator. The manse is now a part of the Ben Schamber’s home.

KUUSAMO LADIES’ CLUB — by Mrs. Ena Kinna

The first Kuusamo Ladies’ Club was formed in 1941 to render services for the community. Well-attended

monthly meetings were held in the homes. For the women, the afternoons were a release from household duties but much darning, knitting, crocheting and embroidery got done as well. They learned from one another, discussing sewing, cooking, gardening, chickens and farming.

As a press correspondent for the Red Deer Advocate, I have brief accounts of the Club meetings from 1950 to 1954 inclusive.

Fund raising projects were: lunches sold after ball or hockey games at 25¢ that included coffee, two sandwiches and a sweet, also at auction sales and dances. Our excellent coffee-makers were Saima Mattson and Jennie Harju. There was the odd chicken supper, fish chowder or a bean feed. Every family in the district helped with the annual bazaar. Then the handwork was auctioned. Some of our auctioneers were Elmer McKee, Oiva Huhtala, Horace Howard and Tom Britton.

Dances were held in the Elspeth Hall about every two weeks. With Emil Mattson as caretaker, the hall rent was a dollar or two per night. Dances usually wound up at 3 a.m. People came from miles around to waltz, one-step, fox-trot, polka, schottische, square dance and enjoy the two-couple Spanish Waltz. It was a fun way to raise money and meet outsiders.

There were activities for all ages: social evenings, bridal and fire showers, house-warming parties; visits to the aged, sick, shut-ins or bereaved. Lunches were served following funerals and cemetery bees. Good use was made of the University Circulating library with Steffie Woima in charge.

Donations were made to: Eckville Hospital, Farmer’s Union of Alberta, Crippled Children’s Fund, Winnipeg flood relief, Kuusamo Cemetery, Benalto Agricultural Building Fund, Benalto Home and School Scholarship March of Dimes, Red Cross, Polio, T.B., Cancer and Heart drives.

A skating rink was made in the schoolyard and kept in repair by the men. Ed Valli, Walter Lund, Arvo Abrahamson and Walter Woima were in charge, and many more assisted in keeping it “iced” and free of snow. Young and old skated together at the “nights on the rink”.

An organ, dishes and hot lunches were bought for the school.

This Club disbanded after about 15 years of service.

KUUSAMO LADIES’ CLUB — 1961-1975 — by Mrs. George Bell

The Kuusamo Ladies’ Club held its re-organization meeting at the home of Mrs. Eino Porttin in May, 1961. The officers elected were: Madge Severtson, president; Mrs. E. H. Porttin, vice-president; Mrs. M. Frisch, treasurer; Mrs. R. E. Hodgkinson, secretary; Mrs. E. McKee, Mrs. Vince Bell and Mrs. E. H. Porttin, program committee. Meetings were held the second Wednesday of each month. “Willing Helpers” was selected as a motto.

To raise funds over the years, the Club did everything from selling vanilla to having turkey suppers, serving lunch at auction sales, and holding a white elephant sale.

In centennial year, the Club entered a float in the Benalto and Sylvan Lake parades. The following girls in the community rode on it: Cathy Stinn, Beverly Burdick, Karen and Debbie Kujala, Judy and Anne Craven, Delia



Kuusamo Float — won 1st prize at Benalto Stampede — 1967.

Wilde, and Beth Severtson. The ladies also made a satin quilt with flowers of the provinces done in Artex. It was then raffled off.

For a number of years, the Club gave an award to the grade IX student with the highest scholastic achievement in the community. The following students were given recognition: Patrick Stinn (1961), Judy Craven (1962), Danny Woima (1963), Doug Craven (1964), Cathy Stinn (1965), Brian Burdick (1966), Dennis Stinn (1967), Randy Kanten (1968), and Debbie Kujala (1969). All the high school students were treated to an evening of bowling.

For community service, the Club bought a bed-table, made layettes and bathrobes and donated \$60.00 toward Cardiac equipment to the Eckville Hospital; sent gifts to the Alberta Children's Hospital; served lunch at funerals; helped burned-out families; and put on a quiz competition at the Sylvan Lake Lodge for entertainment.

When the club disbanded, the funds in the treasury were divided between the Eckville Hospital and the Sylvan Lake Lodge.

The Club played a social role in the community by having strawberry socials or a bar-b-que each summer. It gave pre-wedding showers for the girls and post-wedding parties for the boys of the community. Also, it sponsored a flower and vegetable fair.

The final meeting of the Club was in November, 1975. Club members found fulfillment in cooperating and working together. It is hoped that the club might again enjoy the fellowship it once fostered.

ELSPETH SIDING IN KUUSAMO — by Mrs. Guy Fitch

The station at the Elspeth siding was built shortly after the railway went through in 1912. Because it was a flag station, there was no agent, but the section foreman sold passenger tickets, received and shipped freight, large or small. Cream cans coming and going were the order of the day. They were shipped to Alix, Alberta. A stick with a hoop in one end and split on the other was hung on the station wall and could be used to post letters on a moving train. A letter was placed in the split and waved to flag



Elspeth Siding.

the approaching train. A man in the caboose would step down on the side-step with his arm out to pass it through the hoop, take the letter and leave the stick for another time. Anyone wishing to board the train had to flag it to stop. When the present No. 11 highway was first gravelled, a lot of the gravel was shipped by train to the Elspeth siding. At first there wasn't a section foreman living at Elspeth but the work was done from Eckville and Sylvan Lake. In 1924, Bob Cole came to the siding and lived in the station. There were several others but they cannot be named because the records are not available. The one of Dave Peters is included in this history.

After fifty years of faithful service, this station was torn down in 1962 by Ray Harju and Rex McKinnon and the material was given or sold both near and far.

The C.N.R. siding at Elspeth also had a **grain elevator** built in 1926. In those years the grain was hauled by teams and wagons or sleighs. To help the local farmers, an elevator was built at Elspeth to shorten the distances to a market. At first it was the Alberta Pacific elevator and Mr. McKanna was the first agent. He has passed away. Ralph Johnson was on the work crew when the elevator was built and later an agent. It was during this time it became an Alberta Wheat Pool elevator. Mr. Johnson has retired in Lacombe, Alberta. Jack Bell has since passed away and so has Mr. McLeod. Robert Friend has retired in Ponoka, Alberta. Elmer Anderson has retired and lives in Calgary, Alberta. His history appears under Marianne Allen Kuntz is presently an agent at the Alberta Pool elevator in Red Deer where he resides. Walter Dunlop farms at Bowden, Alberta. The present address of Red Howard is unknown. Robert Kraft lives in Eckville. The last agent was Rex McKinnon. He is farming in Manitoba.

Trucking and private trucks replaced the horses and wagons, so in 1963 the elevator was torn down. The better lumber was salvaged and used in building an elevator at Eckville. The remainder was burned.

Now on this site are propane tanks which are filled by trucks from the **Elspeth Propane Terminal**, located on Cap. SE 33-38-2-5, about 500 feet southeast of the Elspeth siding. This land was bought from George Smith in 1967 by the Hudson Bay Oil and Gas Co. Ltd. No doubt, more freight than ever before is now shipped in the form of propane from the Elspeth siding.

KUUSAMO BRANDS

LH

Vince Bell
Windy Point Farm

LH

Paul Burdick

RH

Howard Kathol

RS

Matt P. Mattson
1910

DERWOOD (DAVE) PETERS — by Mrs. Alma Peters

Derwood (Dave) Peters, section foreman, lived in the station at Elspeth about the longest period of any foreman — about 18 years. He had five children by his first marriage. **Millicent**, the oldest, married Ed Sawyer of Joffre, Alberta. They had three children. She later lost her life in a house fire on the Hendrickson farm near Sylvan Lake, Alberta. **Countess** married George See of Delia. They had five children and reside in Drumheller, Alberta. **Tommy** took his schooling at Kuusamo and Joffre. He was employed on the railroad at Elspeth and Leslieville, but later went to work in the C.N.R. office in Edmonton. He and his wife Rose have one daughter. They reside in Edmonton, Alberta. **Jean** took her schooling in Joffre and Kuusamo. She married Mervin See of Delia, Alberta, and they have two children. They reside in Delia. **Derwood, Jr.**, took all his schooling at Kuusamo. He was employed on the railroad at Elspeth for about two years; he then enlisted in the army and served overseas. After his discharge, he worked in a mine in Drumheller for a few years. He married Christine St. Godard of Vancouver where he worked as a prison guard for several years. They had nine children, and now reside in Langley, British Columbia.

Mr. Dave Peters married Alma Koskie of Kuusamo on February 6, 1932. There are six children by this marriage. **Larry** took his schooling at Kuusamo and Sylvan Lake. He was employed on oil rigs for a number of years. Later he worked for a trucking company in Red Deer and Calgary for many years. He married Leona Elliot of Pine Hill district. They had seven children. They were later divorced. Larry married Velma Stroman of Shelby, Montana, in September 1974. They reside at Sylvan Lake. **Gerry** took his schooling at Kuusamo, Sylvan Lake and Red Deer. He worked on oil rigs for several years, and later at a rubber plant in Welland, Ontario. He is now employed by a trucking company in Calgary. He married Betty Latus of Champion, Alberta and two children and two step-children. They reside in Calgary. **Stanley** took his schooling in Kuusamo, Sylvan Lake and Red Deer, then four years of university in Edmonton. He was employed by Texaco Oil Company for eight years, then for three years in Ottawa by a power company. Now he is employed in Edmonton by the Edmonton Power. He married Betty Scharff of Wetaskiwin, Alberta, on April 12, 1965, where they now reside. **Patricia** had her schooling in Sylvan Lake and Red Deer. She was employed in a bank in Calgary for two years, then in Welland, Ontario, for a dry cleaning establishment. She married Clarence Erikson of Cabre, Saskatchewan, on December 30, 1967, and they have five children. They reside in Medicine Hat. **Gwen** took her

schooling in Sylvan Lake and Red Deer. She worked two years for United Grain Growers in Calgary and nine years in a bank in Red Deer. She was married to John Goleski of Melita Manitoba, April 11, 1970. They reside in Calgary and have one son. **Dennis** took his schooling at Sylvan Lake and Red Deer. He was employed in a lumber yard for a few years in Sylvan Lake and Red Deer; later he went in for carpentry and painting. He married Rose Laviere of Moose Jaw on August 9, 1976. He resides in Sylvan Lake and has two step-children.

Dave Peters died May 25, 1947, and his widow, Alma, resides in Sylvan Lake.

RAYMOND AND ZORIA APRIL — by Mrs. April

Ray is a Saskatchewan resident, born in Tisdale. He has lived in various places in Saskatchewan, due to his dad being employed by the C.N.R., but Zenon Park is considered his home town as most of his school years were spent there. Ray attended St. Thomas College in North Battleford. Here he played hockey and continued playing on a more competitive basis when he was with the R.C.A.F. in Toronto. Raymond took a meat-cutting course in Toledo, Ohio, and this steered him to jobs in Montreal, Yorkton and Thompson. In Thompson, Manitoba, Ray eventually switched to working with Steel Gas Co. Before moving to Alberta, Raymond completed a course in power engineering in Winnipeg. Ray and Zoria arrived in Red Deer from Carmen, Manitoba, in 1970. Ray is now employed by Chevron Standard Co.

Zoria, nee Strocen, was born in Canora, Saskatchewan, and received all her education in this area. Zoria took up psychiatric nursing in North Battleford and after graduation, this career brought her to Dartmouth, Ottawa, Yorkton and Winkler, Manitoba. Zoria was active in the Psychiatric Nurses' Association and enjoyed travelling.

They have three children. **Jacqueline**, born September 24, 1970, who is attending school in Sylvan Lake has a keen interest in gymnastics. **Trevor Marc** and **Tracy Stephen** arrived February 16, 1973. At this point they're the "noise makers" and do keep the parents in "participation" which the whole family is keenly interested in.

Ray and Zoria lived in the Marianne and Evarts districts before taking up permanent residence on the land where the former Elspeth Hall was located in Kuusamo.

VINCE BELL — by V. W. Bell

Vince and Rae Bell came to the Kuusamo community in April, 1944, from the Centerville district. They



Vince Bell Family — L. to R. Victor, David, Richard, Rae, Vince, George, Bruce and Stanley.

purchased the Jack Franz farm and farmed and ran a trucking business from NE 33-38-2-5.

George and David attended the old Kuusamo school for several years with Mrs. Holsworth teaching, before moving to the school at Benalto. During those last four years at Kuusamo, we remember Tom Britton as old Santa Claus and later Red Howard, the Elspeth elevator man. As long as school was held in the old school we had a skating rink in winter and a ball team in the summer.

A year to remember was the spring of 1948 when there was such a heavy run-off. The highway in front, of our farm was covered to a depth of 24 inches and traffic was completely stopped. The Department of Highways put a large pump in, and pumped the water past the house to another slough back of the barn, to a depth of six feet. The next bad year was the spring of 1951. We had one of the worst blizzards which had the highway blocked for seven days. It was finally cleared by caterpillar tractors. The new highway came through in 1954 and our days of drifting and flooding were over.

George, born January 30, 1943, and his wife Mary Ann (nee Petzoldt) operate the farm called Windy Point. Mary Ann is a teacher and came from Portland, Oregon, where they were married on March 21, 1971. Their children are: Sandra, born July 20, 1972; **Aaron**, born April 27, 1974; **Justin**, born October 22, 1976.

David who was born April 30, 1945, and his wife Annabelle are situated in the Fairview area where David teaches school. **Richard**, born December 19, 1946, and Sara are located in Lloydminster where he is a flying instructor. **Victor**, born March 9, 1950, and his wife Gail are in the Vernon area where he is employed as an accountant. **Bruce**, born March 2, 1956, remains on the farm, while **Stanley**, born November 3, 1957, is apprenticing as a mechanic.

The Kuusamo district has changed considerably during the 40 years, from predominantly pioneer district to



Flood on Vince Bell's and No. 11 highway — 1948.

an amalgamation of many languages and cultures, all adding up to a purely Canadian society.

THE BOWENS — by Mrs. Rose Bowen

Gordon and Rose Bowen bought the old Pitkanen place, SE 10-39-2-5, in May, 1973, from Gerald Ament. Gordon, who was born and raised in Ft. MacLeod, Alberta, is presently employed in Red Deer as a government meat inspector. Rose was born and raised in Calgary, Alberta. Their children **Shelly** and **Michael** were born in Red Deer, Alberta.

The Bowens moved a house onto their quarter and began living there in July, 1974. They are now raising purebred Herefords.

HARRY BRZAK AND FAMILY — by Mrs. Dianne Brzak

In the spring of 1972, we began looking for a place to settle down and call home. On July 13, 1972, we purchased five acres located on Pt. SE 2-39-2-5, better known as the "old cheese factory". We began building our home in 1973. After many weekends, weiner roasts, and help from family and friends, we moved into our house on February 15, 1974.

One amusing incident we will always remember took place when we were starting to build and the place was over-run with mice. Our sons and their cousins armed with clubs and their dog, spent one whole day eliminating these pests. As the day progressed, a cry would reach our ears of "That's 40-50-60!"

Our home is occupied by my husband, Harry Brzak, myself, Dianne, and our two sons, **Darcy** and **Dean**. Harry is an electronics technician and he has a shop in Red Deer. I stay at home but worked previously at Ritz Drug store in Sylvan Lake. Darcy is in grade four and Dean is in grade three. They both attend Sylvan Lake School. Both enjoy playing hockey as well as does their father, while mother enjoys watching the games and cheering them on.

We all enjoy snowmobiling and it is very nice when all the neighboring farmers let us use their fields. We enjoy the deer and birds that visit our acreage and love the outdoors and our home on the "old cheese factory" in the beautiful and friendly district of Kuusamo.

WILLIAM BURDICK — by Bessie Burdick

It was in March, 1918, that the William Burdick family arrived in Benalto by Canadian Pacific Railway from Guide Rock, Nebraska. It was a long tiresome



Mr. and Mrs. W. Burdick and Rev. McKechnie — 1925.

journey for Father, Mother (William and Ruth), seven children and Grandfather Burdick, 84 years of age. We had large lunch baskets and meals were greatly enjoyed on the trip. We have wondered since how Mother packed enough food for the ten of us. The train travelled slowly as tracks in southern Saskatchewan and Alberta were covered with water and the trip took longer than expected.

We were met at the train by: Mother's brothers, John and William Holsworth, who lived in the Evarts district with their families who had come to Alberta in 1912 and 1914 from Red Cloud, Nebraska; also by Mother's sister, Miss Caroline Holsworth, who was a clerk in the drygoods department of the W. E. Lord Store in Red Deer.

All were thankful to have a place to live until the folks bought the Peterson estate, SE 4-39-2-5, in the Kuusamo school district on highway No. 11 with a two-storey house. This has been home to some members of the family ever since. A short while later, the SW 3-39-2-5 was purchased. The car-load of house belongings and machinery arrived in time for the family to get settled before spring work.

The first spring, three cows and four horses were bought, also seed grain. This was during the First World War and prices, were very high for most things, but farm land was much lower than in Nebraska. We received our mail, on train days, at Benalto General Store and Post

Office. Usually some of us walked the three and one-half miles when horses were working in the field.

We attended Sunday School and church at Evarts, the only church in the district. We usually enjoyed going the seven miles in a democrat or bob-sleigh. Church was held if it wasn't more than -20 degrees F; then we had hot rocks under the robes to keep our feet warm. Reverend W. G. McKechnie was the minister until he passed away in 1926. Though he was blind, we were pleased to have him in our homes and he knew each of us better than we knew ourselves. He also preached in Sylvan Lake so we who lived north of Evarts were privileged to take him to our homes and then to the service in Sylvan Lake. In 1928 a Baptist Church was started in Benalto by Howard Phillips who had just arrived from Ontario looking for a place to minister. This has been the church home since that time for the members of the family living in Benalto and district.

Our father, William Seldon Burdick, was born November 11, 1867, in Indiana and our mother, Ruth Holsworth, May 24, 1874. They were married March 13, 1895, at Red Cloud, Nebraska. My oldest sister **Maud**, had just finished grade 12 in Nebraska and was able to attend Camrose Normal School that year, the last year they had four months' normal training. She taught at Kuusamo, Wood Lake, Great Bend and Rocky Mountain House for eight years. She was married April 11, 1928, at our home to Harold E. Earl of Rocky Mountain House. They made their home in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, until retirement and now live in Red Deer. They have a son in Saskatchewan and a daughter in Regina.

I, **Bessie**, attended the Red Deer Central High School, consisting of four very crowded rooms. I found quite a change in Alberta high schools as we had a two-semester system in Nebraska and no departmental examinations, but schools have a higher standard here. I taught school for a short time. After Mother and I moved to Benalto in 1938, I worked part-time at Foster General Store until it sold out in 1945; then I did book-keeping at Revelstoke Lumber and Hardware until it closed in December, 1965. **Caroline**, the third daughter, went to school at Kuusamo and Sylvan Lake High School. She married John L. Livingstone in 1926 at our home and moved to Kimberley, British Columbia where Jack was a butcher. They had one son. Later they had a butcher-shop and restaurant in Bluffton and in Alix, Alberta, for a number of years. Caroline passed away in 1969 after a long illness. **Sarah**, the youngest of the family, taught school for two years at Happy Hill and four years at Bluffton. She was married in November, 1934, to Charles Jayne of Bluffton where they farmed until moving to Spokane, Washington, in 1939. Here they had a large hatchery and poultry farm. They later lived in Milan, Washington where they had the post office. They have now retired and live in Davenport, Washington. They have two daughters. **Alvin**, our oldest brother, passed away in February, 1923, after a short illness. Our father, William Seldon, passed away in October, 1925. Father was the first to be buried in Benalto Cemetery, which has just been surveyed. **Grandfather Burdick** passed away in March, 1926, in his 93rd year. Mother passed away at our home in Benalto on May 14, 1964, in her 90th year.

Lynn passed away September 8, 1965, after a short illness. He married Ruth Brattberg in 1937 and they had three sons and two daughters. His widow lives in Sylvan Lake and their youngest son, Donald, and family live on their home farm.

Paul, our youngest brother, lives on the home farm. He married Pauline Kraft in 1936. They have three sons and eight daughters.

In the past 58 years, we have had a number of neighbors and relatives from the States visit us and all were amazed to see the good crops, gardens, fine roads, towns and cities. They are especially pleased with our health plan and senior citizen homes which we have in Alberta. All our pioneer neighbors have passed away and their families have retired and the third and fourth generations are our farmers, or have a useful occupation somewhere in this small world.

"One generation passeth away and another generation cometh": Ecclesiastes 1:4.

Paul Burdick's family is as follows: **Harold**, born July 1937, married Mary McCann. They live on a farm near Eckville, Alberta. **Della**, born July 1938, married Jack Wilde and live at Jasper, Alberta. **Marie**, born September 1939, married Dick Noble. They live at Niampic, Conn. U.S.A. **Margaret**, born January 1941, married Paul Stone and they live in Red Deer, Alberta. **Thelma**, born January 1942, married Tom Warner. They live at Fulton, Ill., U.S.A. **Linda**, born May 1944, married Lorn Hillis and they live at Denon, Alberta. **Alfred**, born May 1946, lives at Sylvan Lake. **Edith**, born October 1947, married Neil McLeod. They live at Seven Persons, Alberta. **Karen**, born October 1948, married Lorn Nancialt, and they live in Red Deer, Alberta. **Brian**, born Mary 1951, married Elspeth Harrin. They live at Red Deer, Alberta. **Victoria (Vicki)**, born 1951 lives at home.

LYNN SELDON BURDICK — by Mrs. Ruth Burdick

Lynn Seldon Burdick was born May 15, 1902, in Red Cloud, Nebraska, and immigrated to the Kuusamo district with his parents, William and Ruth Burdick, in 1918. He, along with his brother and sisters, helped his parents clear and farm the quarters, SW 3-39-2-5, and NE 4-39-2-5, until 1937. He married Ruth Brattberg and settled on the quarter, SW 3-39-2-5, which he farmed along with the quarter, NW 1-39-2-5, until his passing in 1965.

Ruth Burdick was born in 1911 in Herrestad, Bohuslan, Sweden, the sixth of nine children. She took her schooling in Berg, a country school in Bohuslan, and immigrated with one sister, Sigrid, to Eckville in 1929 where their brother Harold met them. He had immigrated in 1928. After working in Calgary and Wetaskiwin for several years, and after attending Prairie Bible Institute in the winter of 1934-35, she met Lynn while helping her brother in the Boyle district. Ruth returned to Sweden to nurse her Mother, returning to Canada after her Mother's death. Lynn and Ruth were married in Calgary, March 24, 1937.

They had five children: **Lloyd William**, born August 2, 1938, who is now living on the farm, NW 1-39-2-5, and working in Red Deer; **Eleanor Ruth**, born November 6, 1939, now married to Richard Snooks is living in Trochu, Alberta, where they are both teaching school.

They have three girls. **Gordon Albert**, born February 20, 1943, married Goldie Az, and they have four boys and are living in Calgary.

Donald George, born February 2, 1945, married Jean Soderburg, and is now living on the home quarter, SW 3-39-2-5. They have two boys and one girl. **Beverley Joan**, born January 24, 1950, married Arthur Buhler, and is now living in Waboden, Manitoba. They have one boy and two girls.

The older children took their schooling at Kuusamo, Benalto, and Red Deer while the younger ones attended Benalto, Sylvan Lake and Red Deer.

I remember going to town with our cream cheque which amounted to between \$2.00 and \$3.00 and getting our week's groceries with it. I also remember selling a cow for \$15.00. Lynn thought it was a good price. Someone told us they had received \$80.00 for a milk cow, near Calgary. I answered, "Nobody pays that much for a milk cow." The good old days!

Donald Burdick's family — **Twyla Dawn**, born September 1970; **Timothy Seldon**, born August 1971 and **Wesley Greg** born September 1973.

ERNEST BJORKLOF — S.E. 16-39-2-5 — by Mrs. Helge Staudinger

Ernest and Aino Bjorklof had planned to homestead at Crimson Lake when they arrived in Alberta, in 1913. Having come to Michigan from Kalajoki, Finland, they joined Aino's brother, Knut August Staudinger, and his family, in search of new horizons. This venture was short-lived, as Aino was of no mind to remain out there in the wilderness. Coming to Kuusamo, they rented the Waisanen homestead for three years. They had three children on arrival. Fifteen year old **Sune Arnold**, ten year old **Vila Louise** and eight year old **Helge Georg**. **Kaino** Charlotta was born at Kuusamo, on September 7, 1914. Another son, **Aimo Alvar**, was born at Superior, Wisconsin, in 1919.

When the three year rental was up, the Bjorklofs returned to the United States, and eventually, back to Finland. Mr. Bjorklof returned to the job he had left, that of Lighthouse Superintendent in the Kalajoki Harbour of the Gulf of Bothnia. After his death, in 1943, Aino travelled a great deal. Her children had scattered and she divided her time between Helsinki, Stockholm, New York and California. Her last years were spent with her daughter, Vila, in Helsinki. She passed away there, in 1966, at 92 years. Helge had gone to Australia. He was killed in action, as a prisoner of war, in 1940. Sune died in New York, in 1974. Vila, in Helsinki, in 1973. Alvar still lives in New York, and Kaino, whose husband, Conny Luthman, is an Engineer with the city of Los Angeles, lives in Hollywood, California.

STEWART CRAVEN — by Mrs. Florence Craven

The Craven family settled in the Kuusamo community in November, 1952. They came from north-eastern Saskatchewan. Stewart and Florence both came from "Pioneer Families" of that area.

Stewart was born at Asquith, Saskatchewan in 1917, moving the following year with his family to homestead at Aylsham in the famous Carrot River Valley. Florence was born in 1922 at Indian Head, Saskatchewan. Her family, the Rusks, moved in 1923 to settle at White Fox.

Both families were very active in church and community affairs in their respective areas.

In 1942 Stewart served in the Armed Forces. Later, upon the death of his father, he was issued Compassionate Discharge to run the family farm. Florence graduated from the Saskatoon Normal School in 1942. She taught at various points in Saskatchewan. It was while teaching at Aylsham in 1945 she met Stewart. They were married in the White Fox United Church on October 11, 1946. **Judith Lynn** was born in 1947 and **Douglas Earl** in 1949 at Nipawin, Saskatchewan.

They lived in the Village of Aylsham and farmed five miles out. Stewart served as a Steward on the Board of Managers of Alysham United Church. Florence taught Sunday School and led C.G.I.T. They were both active in Lodge work. Stewart was Past Noble Grand of I.O.O.F. Lodge in which he was active for many years.

In 1952 they began to look farther afield for additional land. They were advised the Claresholm area offered excellent farm land similar to Aylsham. Upon reaching Red Deer they were impressed with the rolling Parkland area. They purchased the N. ½ of Sec. 25-38-2-5, the former Weber Estate.

Stewart was always interested in new aspects of farming and was one of the first famous farmers to introduce rapeseed to the Central Alberta area. He grew his first crop of rapeseed in 1944 when it was used for marine oil. He continued growing this crop successfully for many years. During these years he saw great fluctuation of prices. As well the Kuusamo District has excelled in its top grade malting barley. Grain farming proved a most satisfying life for them.

Ann joined the family in 1955. She was born at Red Deer. The children all attended school at Sylvan Lake and the Red Deer Composite High School. During her school years Judith won many scholarships for her academic and musical ability. They included the Hotel Association Scholarship in Grade XII and the Grand Award at the Kiwanis Music Festival. Judith received her degree from University of Alberta, majoring in Math. and specializing in Computing Science. She works as a Systems Analyst at N.A.I.T. In 1970 she married David Gifford of Liverpool, England. In 1971 Douglas went to Ottawa for training as an "Air Traffic Controller". He has worked at both the International and Industrial Airports since that time. He married Sharon Gregg of Red Deer in 1971. They have one daughter Amanda Joy. After completing high school Ann attended N.A.I.T. taking a Dental Assistant Course. She works in an Orthodontist Clinic in Edmonton. In 1975 Ann married David Plouffe of Edmonton.

The Craven home has been the centre of many community activities in the past twenty-five years. Many strawberry socials and parties were held when Kuusamo neighbors gathered for good times.

The Craven family have served the Memorial Presbyterian Church of Sylvan Lake in many capacities. Stewart as Clerk of the Session, Sunday School Superintendent and Chairman of the Building Committee which saw the completion of a new church sanctuary in 1976; Florence in Sunday School, Choir and Evening Guild; Judith as church organist.

Stewart being interested in people of all ages led Cubs for ten years and has served on Board of Directors of

Sylvan Lodge for ten years. Life in the Kuusamo District has been challenging and rewarding for this family.

PETE DESCHAMPS — by Sandra Deschamps **SW 2-39-2-5**

The former Andrew Woima homestead was purchased by Pete and Sandra Deschamps in April, 1971.

The house built in 1911 still stands on the farm and is at present home to Pete, Sandra and their three daughters: **Cathy**, 17, **Cheryl**, 15, and **Debbie**, 10. The girls attend school in Sylvan Lake.

Originally from Saskatchewan, Pete and Sandra resided for several years in Calgary prior to moving to Sylvan Lake in 1969.

IVAN DRAPER — by Rita Draper

Dolores Doreen Beamish of the Mirror district and Albert Ivan Draper of the Egermont district were married in the Mirror Anglican Church on June 28, 1951. They lived on a farm in Mirror where they had a daughter, **Julie May**, in May of 1952. They moved to Red Deer and a son, **William Randy**, was born in June of 1955 but died as an infant in June of 1956. A daughter, **Rita Renee**, was born in July of 1959. They moved to Sylvan Lake in 1961 where they have farmed ever since, four miles west and one-half mile north on No. 11 highway.

Julie May started school in Red Deer until grade two when she transferred to the Benalto school until grade eight when she went to Sylvan Lake. She graduated from the L.T.C.H. in Red Deer and married Earl Hamilton of the Sylvan Lake area. They have two children: William Randy and Helen Lynn. Julie is living on a farm in Takysie Lake, British Columbia. Rita Renee went to Sylvan Lake school until grade ten when she transferred to the L.T.C.H. in Red Deer. She was more interested in music and hopes to go to the Alberta Music School in Calgary in September, 1977. She is now living at home and working in Red Deer. Rita says she hopes someday to be Sylvan Lake's own Ann Murray.

MRS. SARAH EISENHAUER AND GLYNN — by Mrs. Guy Fitch

Mrs. Sarah Eisenhauer was born in Paradise, Nova Scotia, on September 10, 1891. It was here her two sons **Glynn** and **Earl** were born. She was a school teacher. In 1909, she and her sons came west to Grassy Lake, Alberta; from there to Coaldale, Alberta, in 1924; and finally to Sylvan Lake in 1927, settling on the Alex Kinnunen homestead. In 1928 they moved on the Dan Weber farm, N ½ 25-38-2-5, in the Kuusamo district where Glynn farmed until his mother's death on April 21, 1951, when he moved to live in Sylvan Lake.

Mrs. Eisenhauer was an ardent supporter of her church and her kind thoughtfulness for others won her many friends. She was buried in Red Deer, and was predeceased by her husband in 1901. Her second son, Earl, was for a time the Deputy Minister of Highways in Saskatchewan. He passed away in California.

After leaving the farm, for about two years, Glynn was farm manager at Lesser Slave Lake, at a church mission school for Indians. Shortly afterwards he met and married his boyhood sweetheart. She owned and managed "Evelyn's Flower Shop" in Ponoka, Alberta, which he helped to operate until he passed away on

January 21, 1970, at 74 years of age. He is buried in Ponoka, Alberta.

Glynn's many friends here remember his devotion to his mother. He was a man who was sociable and neighborly, one who had a sense of humor and could tell many interesting and true incidents without boasting.

FRITZ FAMILY — by Mrs. Ena Kinna

Mrs. Amelia Fritz, son **Ludwig**, and daughter, **Mrs. Emma Lumb**, moved into the Kuusamo district about 1964. Their home was the former Saha house by Highway No 11. Ludwig worked part-time doing farm work for Mr. and Mrs. H. G. Stevenson, who now own this quarter and house.

Mrs. Fritz passed away in 1974, at the age of 97. She was buried beside her husband, Frank, in the Didsbury Cemetery. Emma Lumb moved to Rocky Mountain House. Ludwig resides in the same house here in the Kuusamo district.

JAMES GAUDRY — by Mrs. Ena Kinna

James, an oil worker, and Mildred Gaudry, a nurse, lived in the Woima house, then purchased NW 2-39-2-5, later selling it to Glen Henderson. They had a son, **Lee**,

and two daughters, **Susan** and **Bernadine**. They were very friendly. Neighbors were sorry to see them leave.

Last word from them came from Queen Charlotte Islands, British Columbia.

AUGUST HALSTEIN — by Mrs. Dan Fitch

August Leander Halstein was born in Alajarvi, Vaasanlaani, Finland, near the central part of Finland. Translated reads — "Lower Lake, county of Vaasa". The name Halstein is of German origin, several generations back. At the age of 18, father emigrated to the United States to the coal mines of Wyoming.

Mary Matilda Halla — Aho was also born in Alajarvi, and came at the age of 17 to work as a domestic in the city of New York. The family included six spinsters, who, in the fashion of the day, wore several starched petticoats which had to be ironed with the old sad irons. Mary learned to use both hands for this chore so she could switch hands as one played out. For this and much more she was paid \$8.00 a month. In the fall of 1892 she came to Almy, Wyoming where she and father were married on September 21, 1892. They later moved to Red Canon, Wyoming, and Belt, Montana.



Aug. Halstein family — Bill standing by car. Top, L. to R. — Hilma, Alice, Lillian, Milya. Bottom L. to R. — back, Harry Olsen,

Felix, Iver and Dan Fitch. Seated — Mr. and Mrs. Halstein with 50th Wedding Anniversary cake — 1942.

In those non-union days, the lot of the laborer was not a happy one. As a punishment for the smallest mistake a man could be "laid off" work till the boss' sense of revenge was satisfied. Safety standards were unknown and explosions and other mine disasters took a heavy toll in injury and death. When the government of Canada offered free land, the chance at independence seemed good. In the spring of 1900, a group of Finnish miners came to the Red Deer district of the North West Territories and filled on homesteads.

The Halstein homestead was SE 34-38-2-5. A two-storey, two-room log house was built before August returned to the United States. In the spring of 1901 the family, consisting of Father, Mother, Alice, Felix, Bill and Lillian came to Canada to stay. At the border all had to be vaccinated for small-pox. Felix, then five years old, decided to skip the treatment so he hid. A nose count was made and the missing link found and vaccinated. In Red Deer they hired a rig to bring them to the homestead. The rig had a hole in the bottom and enroute Bill fell through the hole. With the wagon piled high with goods he wasn't missed for a time, however, by back-tracking he was found sitting patiently waiting to be picked up.

Alice had received some schooling in the States. When the Kuusamo school was built, Felix, Bill and Lillian attended. Felix finished grade three, when he "went farming full time", he was about 10 years of age. Bill had about the same amount of education and Lillian probably a bit more. In spite of a lack of formal education all were good readers. Felix has his steam-engineer's papers, Bill was a master-mechanic in the mines and a good self-taught plumber. The three of us who were born in Alberta had a better chance for an education, although at the time I started school there were sixty of us in eight grades in the one room with a teacher who had only six weeks of teacher training. By 1923 Kuusamo had two rooms and high school was being taught to grade eleven. Father was a member of the first school board and also a member when the second room was added.

Both Father and Mother read and wrote Finnish, thanks to the Confirmation classes to the Finnish National Lutheran Church. They learned to speak English fairly well. Mother enjoyed translating English into Finn with the aid of her Finnish — English dictionary. Father had been a hospital patient in Finland as a boy. The doctors allowed him to watch them work. From them he learned to suture. This art was used at least twice on the homestead when Felix cut his foot badly and when a neighbor girl was kicked on the forehead by a horse.

To supplement the farm income, Father, Felix and Bill trained oxen. The oxen were hooked to a heavy log on which the driver sat. Felix says the only hazard was having to sit behind and below the oxen when they coughed. One winter Father hauled building supplies from Red Deer to Rocky — a four-day trip for each load. At the end of the project, the contractor left for parts unknown, leaving everyone unpaid.

Of the early farming, I remember harvest best. The grain was stacked in groups until the custom outfit came to thresh. Those stacks were the ideal place to play hide-and-seek on a moonlight night. One day Bill and Felix were grubbing out a stump. Bill was lifting the stump so Felix could cut a root. The axe slipped and Bill's hand

was badly cut. Mother bandaged it up and Bill rode horseback to find a doctor. The hand healed but the fingers were always bent. Weed control was manual. We kids spent our summer holidays picking ball mustard and bind weed. The latter if left in the field became very tough when it ripened and would wind around the moving parts of a binder till it stalled completely. The only away to remove it was to cut it off.

Until the C.N.R. was built in 1912, grain was sacked and hauled to Red Deer. My sister Hilma and I had our first trip to the city that way. We left home as soon as it was daylight and the lights were on in Meyer's store at Sylvan when we came home. We had our first cafe meal that day in a place called "China Sams". It was a double-decker; the lower floor said "Men only," and upstairs "Ladies and Escorts", so we went up — the only customers there. Each table had a large container of crackers, something new to us. We really went to town on them. To top off the crackers there was a good meal complete with pie for 25¢ each.

By the 1920's the farm had expanded to include SE 34, NW 26 and part of SW 35. More land was being farmed in the whole district and faster threshing was needed to finish before the snow came. A group of, neighbors formed a company and bought a steam-threshing outfit. When the company disbanded the outfit was put up for auction and Father bought it. The family operated it for a number of years. They also used the steamer to operate a saw mill.

The highlights of our social life were the picnics including the May 24 picnic at Eckville to which we went by lumber wagon and the June 24 (Midsummer) picnic at the Young People's Hall. I remember one Sunday School picnic at the Lakeshore. There was a huge mud-hole near the picnic area and one of the horses nearly drowned in it before the wagon was unhooked so he could get loose. However, there was a lot of visiting. In winter, Father would hook up the team and cutter and he and Mother would drive as far as Hespero on a Sunday to visit. When we got a car Father learned to drive but he was never an expert. On one occasion he and Mother were coming home in the dark when the lights failed. Father was afraid he might go in the ditch. Luckily Mother was wearing a white blouse so she got out and walked down the middle of the road and guided him home.

Our home was one of the half-way places between the Finnish settlement at Rocky and Red Deer. We kids were never surprised to find ourselves bedded on the floor in the morning while some weary traveller occupied our bed.

Church was an important part of our lives and many dedicated people came to minister to us. Among those of the Lutheran faith were pastor "Ohte", Hjelt and Eric Maki. Later the Reverend W. G. Brown of Red Deer was instrumental in setting us up as a Presbyterian mission. The Presbyterian ministers were Reverend Korhonen, Harju and Luomala. During the Korhonen's ministry, a Finnish Ladies' Choir was formed. It was invited to sing at the Presbyterian Ladies' College in Red Deer. Mrs. Korhonen rode many miles on horseback collecting white dresses for the girls. Among the singers were Hilma Halstein, Esther and Helia Riecki, and Lempi Korhonen. Reverend Korhonen passed away and is buried in the Kuusamo Cemetery. The Haryu's came

next. They were a very musical family. During their stay we had a very active young peoples' group which met every week in their home — the old cheese factory. They also gave music lessons. Felix was one of their students and became quite a good violinist. In later years he played for local dances. The Luomalas used the message of the Sunday School to teach us to read and write Finnish. Mrs. Luomala held Vacation Bible school.

In 1933, Father, Mother, Iver and I drove to Michigan to visit Father's sister. Iver and I went on to visit the World's Fair in Chicago. In 1939 my parents visited Finland. On their return they saw preparation for war. Hitler's troops paraded at the Kiel canal and submarines were sighted. The ship on which they returned was torpedoed and sunk during the war. In 1942 they celebrated their golden wedding. In 1943 they retired to Sylvan Lake. Father died in the Red Deer hospital on March 10, 1946 at the age of 80. Mother died in the Rimbeay Auxiliary hospital on March 15, 1963, at the age of 92 after a long illness. They are buried in the Kuusamo Cemetery.

The family consisted of: **Alice**, born in Red Canon, Wyoming, who married Tom McGovern in Michel, British Columbia, where they lived till Tom's death. She died in Cranbrook on October 2, 1976. **Felix**, born in Red Canon, Wyoming, farmed in the Kuusamo district most of his life, he married Ida May Harju who passed away in August 1957. He sold the farm to Judge Porter and retired to Sylvan Lake. They have two children, Mildred Leeson of Red Deer and Betty Gathercole of Sylvan. They were predeceased by one son, Raymond. **Bill**, born in Belt, Montana, spent most of his life in the coal mines of the Crow's Nest Pass; married Ines Baratelli of Natal, British Columbia; died August 2, 1968. **Lillian**, was born in Belt, Montana. After leaving home she worked in Red Deer and Calgary. She married Harry Olsen, and died March 3, 1945. Surviving are her husband and one son, Kenneth. **Hilma**, born at Sylvan Lake, helped farm after the older boys left home. Later she worked in Sylvan Lake and Calgary till moving to Vancouver in 1938 where she worked in the Vancouver Hotel till her retirement, she married Julmar Vonhatal. **Milya**, born in Sylvan Lake, married Dan Fitch of the Centerville district. They have a family of two sons, Gordon, of Sylvan Lake and Lorne of Lethbridge. **Iver**, born at Sylvan Lake, farmed in the Kuusamo district all his life. He and his wife, the former Josephine Koski of Eckville, live on the original Halstein homestead, one of the few pioneer families in Kuusamo to do so. Their family consists of Esther Dube of Sylvan Lake and Dorothy Wizotski of Richmond, British Columbia.

Famous last words: "Where have all the bed-bugs gone?"

MATT HARJU AND FAMILY — by Mrs. Susan Zovina

My parents, Matt and Sophia Harju, were born in Finland; Mother on December 20, 1871, and Dad on November 6, 1872. They were married in Ylistaro, Finland, in 1894. The following year their first son was born, **Matt Emil**, on September 30, 1895, and two years later, another son, **John Elmer**, on December 16, 1897.

When John was just an infant, Dad decided to come to America, as the U.S.A. was called. He landed in Grand Marais, Michigan, got a job at a saw mill and

soon sent for mother and their two sons. Mother told us of her trip to America. She couldn't speak a word of English. With a tag on her chest with name and destination, her two small sons and bundles of bedding and clothing, she boarded the ship. They were put into the hull of the ship (steerage) like a bunch of cattle. Their own bedding and bundles were their bed. The trip crossing the ocean took two weeks and almost everyone was sick for the whole trip. But she was young with high hopes of the good life in America, and, joining her husband, she kept busy getting the new home in order; slowly the gruesome trip was forgotten.

While they lived in Grand Marais, five more children were born: **Ida May** on August 29, 1900; **Rosie Alexandra** and her twin brother, **Roy Alexander**, on May 4, 1903. Roy passed away the following year, June 29, 1904. On April 5, 1905, I, **Susan Elizabeth**, was born; then another son, **Theodore**, on March 13, 1907.

In the summer of 1907, we moved to Bonner, Montana. Dad went to work in the saw mill and met Mr. John Kangas. There was talk of free land in Alberta, so the two men started planning to go to Alberta. In 1909 Mr. Kangas and Dad left for Alberta, and in Red Deer filed on a quarter section of land each (homestead), five miles northeast of Rocky Mountain House, adjoining each other.

That fall, 1909, another son, **Frederick**, was born. Then in April, 1910, we started our journey to our new home with Mr. and Mrs. John Kangas and their family. In Red Deer, Mr. Kangas and Dad bought a team of oxen, a wagon, and a 12' x 16' tent, a camp stove and supplies. This 12' x 16' tent was to be the home for the two families, 14 in all. It took us almost a week to arrive at our destination. The day that we did must have been etched in mother's mind for the rest of her life. There was nothing and no one but a dense forest.

Out of this forest was to come almost everything. The house was the main thing. Trees had to be felled, branched, peeled and hewed to fit; our house was an 18' x 20' one room building. This had to be ready before winter set in. Everyone who could help had a job. And there were 101 jobs. For the younger ones, there was moss to be picked to fill in the cracks between the logs, to keep out the cold; and the fine slough hay cut and dried to fill the flour sack mattresses for the bunk beds. The floor was logs hewed and planed flat, all done by hand. Dad had purchased a cow and a few chickens. During the winter, Dad worked at a logging camp, making railroad ties for the C.N.R.

In the spring of 1912, another son, **William** was born, April 6, 1912. There was no doctor or nurse in attendance, only Mrs. Kangas who herself was expecting. Later that year, tragedy struck, as the Kangas home was gutted by fire. The same night, Mrs. Kangas's baby was born in our house. This time, mother was her nurse. Once again we were all to live together; this time, with 16 in all, till the Kangas family could arrange a place to live in, which was not easy as settlers were few and far between.

Our first school was near Codner and to get there we had to cross a muskeg. We had to pick our arms full of twigs and branches and throw these ahead of us to step on so we wouldn't sink into quick-sand-like gumbo. This was always a worry to my folks until we all returned home.

There were a lot of dangerous animals, such as coyotes, timber wolves, bears and lynx. Our only guardian was our mongrel dog. One day while picking blueberries and the dryland cranberries, which were plentiful, a wolf attacked me, and if it had not been for my hand-me-down clothes and our dog Bengy, I would have been carried off by the wolf. The dog saw I was in trouble and he jumped on the wolf and while the two were fighting, I was able to get away and join the rest of the children, who had found sticks and clubs to defend themselves. Our dog came home half an hour after we did, badly chewed up, but fortunately, he did survive.

The same year, Mother had left baby William right in front of the house. She had gone in for a few minutes, when she heard his cry and went to investigate. She saw a wolf trying to carry him away. But once again, the hand-me-down clothes were too worn to support his weight. Mother, with broom in hand, managed to get the baby.

There were many incidents which made it dangerous. Then, on the other hand, there were animals and birds that kept us in meat for the table. Partridge and rabbits were snared by us kids. We would put a rabbit snare at the end of a stick, put this around the partridge's neck and yank him down. Rabbits were a little more difficult to snare, although they were plentiful. For the winter the older brothers would hunt the deer and moose for our winter meat supply.

The few eggs the hens laid in the summertime had to be sold to get other necessities. One day sister Ida and I were to take some eggs to Rocky Mountain House. We would walk along the railroad track as this would cut the distance down a lot. While we were walking along the track, a big, black bear climbed up the bank right in front of us. There was nothing we could do except put our buckets of eggs (5 pound lard pails) down and run towards home as fast as our legs could carry us. Imagine Mother's disappointment — no eggs and nothing that we were to exchange the eggs for. From then on it was an errand the older brothers would have to do as they were able to carry a gun.

I remember one trip I was allowed to go on with Dad to Red Deer. It took us a week to go — another to come back — with a pair of oxen and wagon. We would stop half way at a farmer's place near the present town of Benalto. We would get eggs, milk and bread, which was about all we ate for the whole two weeks. These trips would be made maybe three or four times a year — to buy things that were not available at Rocky Mountain House.

In the meantime, even if the cupboard was almost bare, it was up to Mother to prepare a meal for her family and somehow she always did. In those days, wages were a dollar a day, so every penny counted. The life was hard for Mother and Dad, but by this time brothers John and Matt were getting to be a lot of help.

As there was no future on the homestead, Dad sold it and decided to go grain farming. He rented a quarter section from the Armstrong Brothers in the Eckville district. In 1914 we moved. The house was like a hotel to us, with a kitchen, three bedrooms, a living room and a dining room.

Dad and the boys worked hard. Matt, John and Ida had not gone to school since leaving the States. We younger ones attended the Melita School near Benalto.

As the years went by, farming had its drawbacks. It was hail, frost or other perils, and it was always "maybe next year will be a better year". The older brothers and sisters had to find odd jobs to help out.

On December 14, 1914, Mother gave birth to a stillborn baby boy, premature. The infant was buried three days later in the Kuusamo Cemetery. That was a bleak Christmas, as Mother was sick for a long time.

There was no money for musical instruments or lessons. Yet Theodore was interested and made himself a violin from cigar boxes. He taught himself and did real well. Later on, brother William played with the Kinna orchestra for dances and they were one of the leading dance orchestras.

In 1916, Dad bought a quarter-section of land and house in the Kuusamo district and early in 1917 once again we moved — into what was to be our own home. There were a lot of small trees, mostly poplar, to be cleared, but by this time horses were a big help and there were years that the crops were good. Gradually things looked a little brighter, but still it was hard work from sunrise to sunset.

In 1919, January 13, Ida married Felix Halstein. They had three children: Mildred, Mrs. Ray Leeson; a son, Ralph, who died in infancy; Bette Lou (Mrs. Walter Gathercole). Ida passed away August 25, 1957. Myself, Susan, married Anthony Zovina, October 7, 1921. We had two children: Helen and Ray. Susan lives at Powell River, British Columbia.

On June 16, 1925, John married Jennie Mattson. They had three children: Violet, Ray and Margaret. John passed away June 16, 1961. Jennie passed away on August 25, 1967. Their farm is located on SE 33-38-2-5, where Ray still farms. He worked as a C.N.R. employee before he started farming at home. He attended school at Kuusamo. Violet married Morley Dell of Newcastle, Alberta, on November 12, 1954, in Calgary, Alberta. They reside in Ponoka, Alberta, but Morley works for the Gulf Oil in Rimbey, Alberta. There are five children in their family: namely, Michael, Brian, James, Barbara and Janice. Margaret lives in Sylvan Lake, Alberta, where she is employed by the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce. Due to her faithful service she is now an accountant. She and Violet attended school at Kuusamo, Benalto and Sylvan Lake.

Rosie married William McIlheron, June 18, 1925. They had one son, Raymond. Rosie passed away March 25, 1926. Fred died December 10, 1928, and Theodore on September 1, 1972.

Mother passed away March 19, 1944. Ten months later, Dad passed away on January 19, 1945. William died October 2, 1947. Matt died August 24, 1969. The family is all interned in the Kuusamo Cemetery family plot.

This is a story of a couple who dared to go out and blaze a trail with their family through the wilderness of Alberta, with nothing much more than determination, high hopes and bare hands, trying to make a living for their family and themselves.

STANLEY HAYWOOD — by Mrs. Haywood

Stanley Haywood and family live on the Karl Soderlund Sr. homestead, but they bought the land from William Reid. Stanley was born in 1920 at Lethbridge,

Alberta, but was raised in Caragana, Saskatchewan. Lili Tiedjens was born in 1921 at Central Butte, Saskatchewan and raised at Pre Ste. Marie, Saskatchewan.

Stanley and Lila were married at Caragana, Saskatchewan, in 1945 and lived in Alberta, Saskatchewan, and British Columbia, before coming to Kuusamo. Stanley was formerly a farmer but now is an attendant at the Alberta School Hospital, Deerhome.

Their son, **Wayne**, was born in 1950 at Porcupine Plains, Saskatchewan. He took his schooling in Saskatchewan, British Columbia and Eckville, Alberta. At the present time he is a co-partner of the Cealta Appliance Service in Red Deer, Alberta.

JOSEPH HUERLIMANN - by Mrs. Ena Kinna

Joseph Huerlimann was born at Walchvil, Switzerland, on January 29, 1877. In his youth he took a cheese-maker's course. Canadian Pacific Railway pamphlets advertised the availability of land in Canada "where cattle graze all winter". He thought a move to Canada would give him the opportunity to acquire land, cattle, and to earn a living by making cheese.

He came to the North West Territories (now Alberta) in 1903, and filed a homestead located on SW 6-39-2-5, which is two miles west of Sylvan Lake along Highway 11. The same year he built a house which is still usable. For a time, he was cheesemaker at the late T. B. Millar's factory located one and one-half miles from his residence. However he couldn't make his favorite Swiss cheese because the grass wasn't the same as it was in Switzerland.



Top — House built in 1898 by Adam McPherson, Joseph Huerlimann's home is same house with an addition.

If a pioneer is a man who works with his hands, Joe was that. When asked why he put so much time and effort into making a decorative peeled picket fence around the garden, he answered, "This isn't work. I enjoy doing this."

Following his arrival here, Mr. Huerlimann met a young carpenter, Joseph Heinrich, from Bavaria, Germany, who had left his fiancée behind until he could obtain land and build a house.

On July 18, 1913, Mr. Heinrich's fiancée, Miss Mary Weis, arrived at Sylvan Lake, accompanied by his sister, Anna Maria, who had been born in Aspach, Bavaria on November 9, 1875. Before sailing, Anna Maria decided some knowledge of the English language was a must so she took ten lessons. "I had no intention of staying," she admits, "but World War I broke out and here I was." She wasn't even allowed to send or receive mail from her family abroad. With the aid of her German-English dictionary, she was able to read newspapers and keep in touch with world affairs.

Meanwhile she was introduced to Joe Huerlimann and she became Mrs. Joseph Huerlimann on September 22, 1913 — the first wedding held in the newly-built Catholic Church at Sylvan Lake. The woman who had been a cook in many of Europe's royal households was practising her profession on a wooden range on the homestead. "It was difficult to provide a varied menu in those days," she recalls. "There were few stores and very little selection. However we made many kinds of bread and did all our baking at home. Our gardens were good. Some vegetables were stored in our dug-out cellars, some were dried, some canned, and sauerkraut was made in big barrels. Wild berries were plentiful and rhubarb did well. If needed, all foods were shared with neighbors and nothing was wasted."

Later on, Mr. and Mrs. Huerlimann added to their acreage by buying the lakeshore quarter, NE 1-39-2-5, from the late Adam McPherson. They built an addition to the original McPherson house built in 1903, and made it their home in Kuusamo.

Instead of buying a car, the Huerlimanns chose to make two trips to their birthplaces. They toured other European countries as well.

Mr. Huerlimann died suddenly on January 13, 1940, and is buried in the Sylvan Lake cemetery. Mrs. Huerlimann died August 14, 1970.

JOSEPH HEINRICH — by Mary Pijean

In 1906, Joseph Heinrich immigrated to Sylvan Lake from Germany. Having gone to school in England for three years, he received his carpenter trade, and having this, he helped to build many of Sylvan Lake's first buildings, including the old Sylvan Lake Bank and its hotel. In 1913, Marie Weiss came to Sylvan Lake from Bavaria, and made herself understood by speaking French.

She married Joseph Heinrich, and they settled here at Sylvan Lake. On a snowy spring day of May 3, 1914, a year later, **Mary** Heinrich was born. When Mary's father first came to Sylvan Lake, there was no post office; therefore Mr. Heinrich walked or rode by oxen to Evarts to pick up their mail, and then, for supplies, he would go to Red Deer by foot. Sylvan Lake did have a doctor. When Mary was a toddler going to school, she remembered walking through town after finishing her

mile and half from west of town. Passing through, she remembers seeing a post office, one church, a hotel, general store, barber shop with a candy-striped pole; and she'll never forget the horses that lined the street.

School for Mary was a continuous episode no matter what the weather was like, even to the extremes of it, being between 20 degrees to 40 degrees below (F). The only entertainment they had as children was playing basketball or seeing silent movies that were announced in the *Sylvan Lake* newspaper. Going to one of the games was a real trip. One outstanding event that Mary recalls was when the highway was built, which split her family's farm in half. In the same year she quit school and worked on the farm with her parents. *Sylvan Lake*, according to Mary, was always a tourist town she remembers the huge regattas that were held, ending with fireworks.

During the war, in 1939, Mary married **O'Neil Pijeu**, who was then a mechanic. They settled on part of the land of her parents. They have two daughters: **Josephine**, now Mrs. McGrandle, and **Marie**.

Mary is now a co-owner of the Huerlimann property in Kuusamo.

GLENN HENDERSON — by Mrs. Gay Henderson

Gay and Glenn Henderson were both born in Eastern Canada; Gay in Dundee, Quebec, one-quarter mile from the American border, and Glenn in Huntingdon, Quebec. Gay, for "Gaetane", of French origin, was Gaetane Weschambeault before marriage. Weschambeault goes back to one of the first Lord "Seigneurs" that came from France in the 1700's and left his name to a place near Quebec city, because of his huge land ownership at the time of his death.

Glenn is everything but French; a bit of English, a bit of Irish and a bit of Scottish are in his background. Well, how do you see two persons with such different backgrounds facing marriage when the rest of the world fight each other on those same differences? I guess love is a powerful emotion. Like the song says, "All the world needs is love."

Gay took her schooling in a rural school in Dundee, Quebec, and then went to a normal school for teacher training. Villes-Jacques Cartier, Quebec, was the first place of teaching in 1959. Gay remembers seeing St. Helen's Island every morning on the way to school, a bare place with just a phone booth and few trees on it. In 1967, Expo year, Gay went back to find St. Helen's Island all decorated with the magnificent pavilions of Expo. Then Gay taught in the greater Montreal where all the pupils were Italian, Polish or Hungarians, except two or three. What an experience!

As for Glenn, he was driving semi-trailers for Kingsway Transport, till the strike came. Glenn didn't agree with the idea of walking a picket-line so he looked to the west for a brighter future. A friend, Denis Trepanier, offered him a ride west — a long time dream for Glenn so he jumped at the chance. That was May 1, 1962. That morning, Mother was crying, his girlfriend was crying; everybody was so sad because the west seemed so far and so unknown to many easterners. Gay, as soon as school ended in Quebec, drove west. It seemed a very long way. Alberta greeted Gay with a beautiful sunshine on July 4, 1962.

On August 4, Gay and Glenn were united in marriage in Bentley. On September 4, 1962, Gay started teaching in Bentley. What a surprise to find the wages double to the eastern salary! Being French and being able to find a position teaching immediately 3,000 miles away from home, calls for a key, and that is bilingualism. It is never what you possess that hurts, but what you lack. Glenn enjoyed farming so farmed with Mr. Sid Thompson from Bentley. Then when the work was done on the farm, Glenn went to work on the oil rigs; quite an experience for an eastern boy.

Angele was born June 17, 1963. She was only two weeks old when she took her first plane ride to Quebec to go and visit with Mom and Dad, all the aunts, uncles, grammas and grandpas. **Cyril** is the little man in the family, but oh! so active.

In 1968 after a long search for a suitable quarter of land, the NW 2-39-2-5 was to become a permanent home. It needed a lot of fixing in and out, but so what; young people accept big tasks and do not mind. Then baby **Elaine** came along in 1969. At two, she was riding a horse. At five she went along on an eight-mile trail ride and enjoyed every minute of it. She had the biggest horse out of 30 riders.

Everyone enjoys the farm and participates in the farming activities. The children have deep ties to this place and their whole world revolves around it. I guess parents can look back and say, "It was all worthwhile."

GUST HILL — by William Lund

Among the highlights from the early days that **Elmer Hill** remembers, were the winter trips, **Gust Hill**, his father took to work in the Crowsnest Pass. On one occasion nothing whatever was earned, because of a strike. Quite naturally, the acquirement of stock and horses were important events in the lives and economy of the early settlers. The Hills bought their first team of horses in Red Deer from Mr. Cronquist in 1902, and another one from Mr. Giselman at Evarts. These horses were needed to work the land, but before much was done, the Giselman horse and one from Cronquist died. Afterwards it was learned that there was a poisonous weed growing in the district, which had caused these and some other horses to die. In a year or two another horse was purchased, and Mr. Hill joined a group of neighbors in a timber contract near Sundre. They cut quite a sizeable amount of logs, and piled them on the ice of the Red Deer River, from which after spring break-up, they floated down to the Great West Lumber Company at Red Deer.

Prior to 1906, or thereabouts, all the mail came to Red Deer and the Kuusamo district had a common mail box near Riekk's (Art Severtson's now) in which everyone's mail was left by anyone who happened to go to Red Deer. About 1906, the Smiths, Donald, Oliver and Sam built a store and post office at Evarts, and from then on that was where everyone got their mail, as well as their other needs. At that time school was only held in the summer months at Kuusamo school, and Maggie Braton was Elmer's first teacher. The late Sam and Dave Braton of Evarts were her brothers, and Maggie later married Sam Smith, who passed away many years ago.

A highlight of Elmer's boyhood, was the coming of the CNR to Elspeth siding, only a quarter of a mile away. The first train reached there about three o'clock a.m. on



Mr. and Mrs. Gust Hill and Saima — 1915.

January 17, 1912, and it was a real thrill to the whole neighborhood and particularly to the growing boys, who were occasionally permitted by the work crews, to try their strength at operating a hand-car up and down the tracks at the siding. Immediately after this event, the Smiths contracted for and shipped large quantities of baled hay from Elspeth siding to feed horses employed on uncompleted railway construction operations further west. Shortly before the advent of the railways, the Finnish people built their own hall on S.E. 17-39-2-5. The most important event of the year was the traditional June 24th picnic. Elmer says there was no whisky or beer at their gatherings in those days, but everyone had a good time.

The first threshing outfit in the district was horse operated and hand fed. These gave way to steam-operated outfits that did not have their own traction but had to be hauled around by horses. Later regular steam-outfits came along with straw blowers. The first local outfits of this type were owned by Henry Aho, near Benalto, and the Kinnunens, near Sylvan Lake.

Mrs. Sanna (Susanna) Hill, beloved by all that knew her, died on March 5, 1939, at the age of 80 after a short illness. Mr. Hill's death occurred seventeen days later on March 22, 1939, at his home which was located on N.½ of 20-29-2-5. Both Mr. and Mrs. Hill are buried in the Kuusamo cemetery. Their daughter **Saima**, was married in 1925 to Emil Mattson and they now live at Sylvan Lake. Their son Elmer married Ida Talson of the Saima district in 1919. They have farmed on several locations. Elmer has also worked as a carpenter at Red Deer, Edmonton, and other places. Mrs. Hill passed away December 27, 1973. They were the parents of two girls. **Elvie** is married and has three children and lives in Ontario. **Ida Helen** her younger sister, who was born at Benalto on June 30, 1922, died on November 9, 1956, at the age of 34. She is buried in the Kuusamo cemetery. Elmer resides in the Red Deer Westpark Nursing Home.

KALEB HILTONEN — by Mrs. Guy Fitch

Kaleb and Aina Hiltonen bought the quarter-section from Henry Salonen, four miles west of Sylvan Lake on No. 11 highway. Living across from the Kuusamo

school, they had students from neighboring districts board there while attending high school at Kuusamo, also several teachers.

Mr. Hiltonen was a school board member. For a few years they operated a general store at Sylvan Lake, where Long's Mayfair Foods now stands. At that time they lived in Sylvan Lake.

Mr. Hiltonen is buried in the Kuusamo Cemetery. Mrs. Hiltonen is in a nursing home in Vancouver, British Columbia.

Others who lived on this same farm, for short periods of time, were **TOM ARMSTRONG** and **ISRAEL HUMALAMAKI** families.

REVEREND OSCAR HJELT — by Mrs. Ena Kinna

Kuusamo district's first minister was Reverend Oscar Hjelt. He and his family arrived here about 1905, from Butte, Montana. Karl Soderlund built them a log house on their lakeshore homestead.



Rev. Oscar Hjelt — 1904.

The first furniture in that building was an ornate organ which the Hjelts brought with them from Butte. This pride and joy was soon surrounded by a table, benches, and shelves and beds, which were hand-made out of poplar, the only material available.

A few years later, Reverend Hjelt went back to Butte and died there following an appendectomy. Before Mrs. Hjelt and the children moved back to the States, she had her land transferred to Mr. and Mr. Lampi and family of four, former friends also from Butte.

MR. LAMPI — by Mrs Ena Kinna

Mr. and Mrs. Lampi's stay here was brief. Mrs. Lampi died during childbirth and within three months, Mr. Lampi got pneumonia and passed away. Both are buried in the Kuusamo cemetery.

Their son was placed in an orphanage (deceased). **Ellen** (Mrs. Craig), Seattle, was adopted by local residents, Mr. and Mrs. Mike Peterson. Mr. and Mrs. Elson, of Eckville district, adopted **Mary** (deceased). Mrs. Jack Staudinger took **Elsa** (whereabout unknown).

Lampi's quarter is now "Camp Woods" Boy Scout camp.

MIKE PETERSON — by Mrs. Ena Kinna

Mike and Ida Peterson chose SE 4-39-2-5 for their farm. They adopted an orphaned district girl, Ellen Lampi. Mike was elected a trustee of the Kuusamo School in 1914 for a three-year term, but he died in 1914 due to a ruptured appendix. Mrs. Peterson passed away in 1916. Both are buried in the Kuusamo cemetery. Paul Burdick resides on their farm today.

MATT KAILA — by Mrs. Katie Coop

Matt Kaila was my Dad. He was born at Oulu, Finland, on December 11, 1860. Ida Kesti, was born at Oulu on November 29, 1865, and she married Dad in 1884. Neither had a chance to attend school but they learned to read at a Lutheran Confirmation School. In 1888, Dad went to the U.S., leaving Mother and two children behind until he could earn enough money to send for them. For a time, he was a butcher at Rock Springs, Wyoming. In Duluth, Minnesota, he hauled water in horse-drawn wooden tanks. This water was pumped from Lake Superior and was delivered and sold to the houses at so much per pail.

When Mother and the children arrived in 1895, they moved to Belt, Montana, where coal mines were opening. Everything was owned by the mining company. We lived in a company house, and bought our groceries and clothes from the company store. So the song we sing now is true: "I owe my soul to the company store".

In the spring of 1900, Dad accompanied the Leeti, Pass and Pastobak families when they moved to Canada. They homesteaded a section one mile west of Sylvan Lake. The four families became more than neighbors. They were one big family ready to help one another when the need arose. Dad lived with Mr. and Mrs. Parvi while he built his 20 x 14 cabin on NE 30-38-1-5. He had never worked on a farm so he chose his land because it reminded him of Finland. It had a lush growth of poplar, spruce, birch, willows and grasses. A creek ran across the land and a spring supplied water to cattle the year around. He did not stop to think that much of his quarter was unsuitable for growing grain. He received his patent for his homestead on October 22, 1904, and his naturalization papers on November 7, 1904. In September, 1900, my mother and four children were met in Red Deer by Mr. Parvi. We admired the team of horses and were eager to ride in a wagon, but I have never forgotten that trip. I held my breath when we forded the Red Deer River near the Indian School. The hours of bumpity-bump became tiresome and I missed my sister, Lydia, who remained in Montana.

It would be interesting to know what went on in Mother's mind when she saw our sod-roofed cabin for the first time and saw the rough board floor, the long-legged stove surrounded by homemade beds, benches and table. She remained calm and collected. Hadn't she and son **John** some money? John had worked on a farm and she had run a sauna at 25¢, a bath. This saving bought a cow which would freshen in the spring. But winter was upon us and we had no feed for her, so Dad and Mother often pulled a homemade sled to Snake Lake and cut grass and weeds that were over the ice, then pulled the load back home. During this time John was out snaring rabbits. Our orders were to go to bed when we got cold and let the fires go out. All that winter, twice a week, Mrs. A. Pass gave us a five-pound lard pail full of skim milk. We had no cream, butter, or grease, and the only sweet food we saw was lump sugar. Dad made his own shuttle, weights, floats and fish net. One day he would lower the net under the ice, then haul out his pike, suckers, perch or ling cod the next day. All the fish would be frozen solid by the time he got home.

In December, the Kailas had a baby boy, **Arvid**, who lived but a few days. There was no minister and no cemetery. Mr. V. Pastobak made a little casket from rough boards. Another neighbor read a chapter from the Bible and Arvid was buried on the homestead a short distance from the cabin. In later years, wheat fields surrounded the little grave.

The winter days were not long enough. Everyone was busy. Land was cleared and logs were set aside for a new cabin; also much firewood was needed. Dad and Mother were very handy with the wood. Dad made wooden rakes, spoons, stools and later on all the double-trees and single-trees used on the machinery. Mother made brooms out of "vaivas Koivu" (dwarf birch) when the leaves appeared in the spring. For years these were the only brooms we had. We used them in the house, to sweep the barn and the yard. Then we gathered young willows and peeled them so Mother could make "vispilas" (wire whisks for beating eggs). They were works of art. The nights were long and dark. We had only one oil lamp. Religious literature was the only reading material. Much later a newspaper "Uusi Kotimaa" (New Homeland) was read and passed from house to house.

Friendly Indians on their way to Rocky Mountain House used to pass our cabin. They travelled in single file, the men on ponies and the women walking with their papooses on their backs. We saw the chief, too, head-dress and all. Our quarter had a deserted Indian campsite. We named it "Indun Kukkula" (Indian knoll). For many years we used their bridge to cross the creek while ours got washed away every spring and we had to rebuild it.

All of a sudden the snow and ice disappeared. Sloughs were everywhere. The air was filled with the music of frogs and birds. It was the spring of 1901. Our creeks became a river, so full of pike and suckers that the neighborhood men made a willow basket to fit a narrow spot in the creek. In no time the basket was so heavy with fish that four men were needed to lift it out. The women were there ready to clean, salt and smoke the fish in the sauna bath. Fresh fish was there just for the taking. Now Dad found out how wet his land really was. He and John cleared the driest spot with an axe and a grub hoe. The

only thing planted that year was potatoes. All summer water lay between the rows. Dad borrowed a gun so he could shoot prairie chicken and partridge which were plentiful. Finally our cow had a calf. Now we had skim milk but no butter. Every pound of butter was sold in Red Deer and the money spent on necessities. In order to keep it from melting in the hot weather, Mother would print it into pound molds in the root cellar and store it there until delivery day. As more cows were added to the herd, we still could not afford to use butter for many years. Whenever a neighbor called, a cup of coffee was served. Green coffee beans were purchased. What a wonderful aroma when Mother roasted those beans. Then they were ground in the coffee grinder, a machine found in every house. Mother made all our soap from soaked weed ashes instead of lye. Nothing was ever thrown away. Some use was made of every bag, ribbon, string, colored paper, or rag. When we had colds or earaches, Mother used to steam us, sometimes using Friars Balsam in boiling water as an inhalent. For pains in joints, legs or back, the victim was taken to the hot sauna and soaked in a steam made of wild plants. One such plant was the arnica.

To show how the neighbors helped each other, Charlie Pass rode to Red Deer on a saddle horse to get medical aid when my brother **Edward** was born on October 19, 1901. In the meantime it started to rain and the sod roof leaked. Dad kept moving Mother's bed to keep her dry. Pans were placed to catch the drips. At this time the doctor arrived in a top-buggy drawn by a beautiful team of drivers. Mother's life was saved. By now our Montana shoes wore out, so Mother cut rags into strips, braided them into the shape of a moccasin. Dad was the only one who did not wear these homemade shoes. Knitting was always on the table because our socks and mitts were homemade. I could knit and sew at the age of seven. Occasionally Dad purchased a heavy pair of German socks. These were worn over the pantleg up to the knees.

John worked in the Frank Coal Mines during the Frank slide disaster on April 29, 1903. He was one of the lucky ones and often talked about walking over the ruins the morning after. From there he sent home money, also clothing he collected from wealthy families. Mother altered the clothing, using the neighbor's sewing machine. Later on print and flannelette were purchased in ten-yard bolts so we always looked alike. Our under things, sheets, pillow cases and dish towels were made out of flour sacks.

The years 1903 and 1904 were exciting. I hardly know where to start. By now we had a team of oxen to do our ploughing. On the other side of the creek, Dad sowed timothy with a hand seeder. This simple machine had a canvas bag for the seed. Dad wore it like a carpenter's apron. He walked along the field turning the crank, resembling an organ grinder, and a propeller on the bottom of the bag spread the seed. It did a good job. The feed returns were gratifying. Another half-acre was sown into rye, thinking we could use it to make rye bread. It grew lovely and green until the deer found it — resulting in no rye bread. We moved into a bigger shingle-roofed cabin. In the winter, muskrats began to move into our dog house which was right against the house. Mother was afraid they would bite us so she killed them with a

pitchfork, which was the best weapon she could find. As Godparents, Mr. and Mrs. Pasma, gave Edward a hen, Mrs. V. Pastobak brought a rooster. That gave us a start with poultry.

When the Kuusamo school opened, two Kailas were in attendance. The school was also used as a church. School tax had to be paid with cash. Road taxes were paid by labor. The settlers with or without horses made the roads. Cream was delivered to the Evarts Creamery. Later milk was hauled to the Millar cheese factory. By this time we had eight cows. There was a public library in Mr. Pasma's home. Dad could not speak English well enough to take an active part in the community affairs, but he attended the meetings both school and political, and helped in any way that he could. He was a strong Liberal.

The first Finnish Christmas program put on by the settlers at the school was a memorable occasion. Old and young went in big bob-sleighs with bells ringing. The Red Deer store-keepers were very kind. They gave every family candy canes, and hard candy. The only music we heard was Mr. Leeti's small roller organ. About 1904 listening to Mr. Hendrickson's phonograph was a privilege. What a horn it had!

Every June 24, day of Finland's midnight sun, "Juhanus" (Mid-summer's Day), the settlers took the afternoon off and had a picnic. A booth "Lehti Maja", made with poles and decorated with leaves, sold lemonade at five cents a cup. When A. Loiselle's and Archambault's hotel, store and post office opened, we could sell eggs, butter, vegetables and wild fruits. We could fill a two-gallon milk pail with blue berries in no time. Saskatoons were like cherries. Wild raspberries, currants, strawberries, gooseberries, and dewberries were plentiful. We picked all the high bush cranberries we could carry home on A. Kinnunen's quarter. They made excellent syrup for pancakes. So the summers were beautiful. Everyone was busy, always looking forward for better days to come, and they did, day by day, year after year. Dad had several implements — walking plough, disc, harrow, mower, and a rake. He sold his team of oxen and got horses. Mother had plenty of work at all times, but when Mr. Murray set up his work camp on our quarter to build the C.N.R. grade, she boarded 12 to 15 men. This was in 1911. Both the C.N.R. and A.C.R. (now C.P.R.) went through our land so it was really cut up and looked so different. Dad was forced to buy another quarter. By this time he had more help in clearing land. Three sons joined him. Every year the wheat field got bigger until most of the land was under cultivation. So the long, hard hours of hard work paid off a hundred fold. To help the family financially, I went to work in the Sylvan Lake Hotel at \$10.00 a month. Mrs. P. Wetelainen, a capable midwife, delivered a sister **Ida** on July 26, 1905, and later two brothers, Isaac and Harvey. During the war years, Elmer worked all year round on the farm. The boys helped in the summer, but when winter came, Edward mined at Nordegg; John worked at Rocky Mountain House; Ellen and I worked in Red Deer. Ellen married Oswald Uimari on October 2, 1917.

When the 1918 influenza broke out, our family was immune. John helped the families that were hit the hardest. He tended both the sick people and the stock. For three weeks he had not removed his clothes. Elmer

assisted with the burials. Mr. and Mrs. Matt Kaila lost their youngest daughter on November 19, 1919. Ida died of scarlet fever while attending high school in Red Deer. Tragedy struck again on May 1, 1921. Edward was at the Hendrickson farm home. The young people were having a social evening and in a game of forfeits, he and a friend had to walk thrice around the house in the dark. They were warned of a concrete chute leading to the cellar of which they already knew. Edward pitched headfirst to the concrete floor eight feet below. He died on the operating table at Sylvan Lake.

In 1922, Dad and Mother moved into their beautiful frame two-storey house. Elmer planted every spruce tree growing around the house and along the driveway. Dad's work was easier, but Mother was left alone to clean a big house, milk cows, churn, bake all the bread used, wash clothes by hand, work in the garden, tend the chickens. Her cupboard was never empty, meals were always on time, and expected or unexpected company was always welcome.

Isaac married Irene Silta Maki on December 6, 1927, so he left home. Elmer married Ivy Jarvie on January 14, 1931. Harvey married Ina Talson on May 4, 1931. Mother and Dad were left alone, because the boys wanted to work in town. John, who was born in Oulu, Finland, on January 10, 1888, married Hanna Sloop. He moved to the U.S.S.R. in 1932. He had one stepson, Eino Sloop. John died November 30, 1965. Mother said, "The boys will get hungry in the city. They will return. We must never sell the land". So Dad held an auction sale in 1933. Everything was sold but the land, which they rented. The folks built a small house at Sylvan Lake, where they lived until the spring of 1943. When the renters left, I took Mother and Dad back to the place that was so dear to them. Dad bought a cow, a few chickens and three little pigs, so we had milk, cream, butter and eggs. Our garden was good. No water lay between the rows of potatoes. The spring was gone. The sloughs were dry fields; the creek was dwindled and lazy. The only trip that Mother and Dad had together was to Stettler to see Harvey and his wife and new born granddaughter. One year Dad went as far as Calgary to see Elmer who was ill with rheumatic fever.

When the flowers were at their best, and the crops promising, death walked into our house. Mother died August 2, and Dad on August 17, 1945. Interment was in the Kuusamo Cemetery.

Lydia, Mrs. John Kaski, was born on March 30, 1885, in Oulu, Finland. She died in September, 1974, in Montana, U.S.A. **Katie**, Mrs. Sam Coop, was born in Belt, Montana, on August 2, 1896. She resides in New Westminster, British Columbia. **Elmer** was born in Belt on January 13, 1898. He married the late Ivy Jarvie and now resides in Vancouver, British Columbia. **Ellen**, Mrs. O. Uimari, was born in Belt, on December 13, 1899. She resided in British Columbia and died on July 26, 1975. **Isaac** was born on the homestead on March, 3, 1907. He lived in Edmonton, Alberta, and died on July 22, 1976. **Harvey** was born on May 7, 1909, in Sylvan Lake. He now resides in British Columbia.

GUST KALAPUTAS — by Mrs. Sylvia Thorkman

Gust Anderson Kalaputas, a shoemaker's son, was born in Marijarvi, Finland, on March 24, 1870. Being a



Mr. and Mrs. Gust Kalaputas' wedding — 1894.

quiet lad, he heard men talking about America, the land of opportunities. At the age of 18, he left home to see the wonderful land, arriving in New York on March 23, 1889, from whence he travelled to Evanston, Wyoming, where employment in the mines was available.

Miss Elmina Soderback, who was born in Alajarvi, Finland, on July 9, 1874, left her native land, at the age of fourteen, with her father, a Lutheran minister, and eldest brother Gus. She lived in Massachusetts, U.S.A. for several years, travelling with her father before moving to Evanston, Wyoming where she met Gust her life partner-to-be. They were married on June 20, 1894, in Evanston. A year later they moved to Rock Springs, Wyoming where there was better working conditions and newer homes. The mining company had constructed new homes for their employees so living conditions were more favorable. Travelling was still the urge, so in the summer of 1897 Gust and Elmina returned to Oulu, Finland, to join their parents. After living in Finland for five years, America again beckoned them. In 1901 they arrived in New York accompanied by Elmina's mother, brother Matt, and sister Senja. From there they went to Ely, Minnesota where her father and oldest brother had a home ready for the family. Again they felt they must move on; so they spent two years in Minnesota; then moved back to Rock Springs, Wyoming. Hearing of the golden opportunities in Canada and Alberta, they decided to move again. In November, 1904, they arrived

in Red Deer, Alberta, where they were met by the August Halstein family.

That winter Gust filed on a homestead, NW 29-38-3-5, which had formerly been filed by Edward Aho but the land had gone back to the government. By spring a house was ready for the family.

During the first years in the district, Gust devoted his spare time building log houses and barns for the neighbors. Some of these buildings are still standing and in use. His first farming was done with oxen. One morning his son Charles was sent to deliver milk to the cheese factory with the oxen hitched to the wagon. Mr. Kalaputas, hearing the lad calling for help, arrived on the scene, finding that one ox had turned to hook his partner and caught his horn in the harness. This made the team go around in a circle instead of following the trail. Fortunately, there were no trees within the circle; if they had hit a tree, the oxen would have pulled until something gave. Mr. Kalaputas freed the entangled oxen so Charles was able to proceed on his way without loss of any of the milk. Later Gust purchased a very well trained team of ponies, Dick and Molly, from the Indians. They were hard to catch on the range, but once caught, they were gentle and the family used them mostly for trips to town and riding to school. With no roads to speak of and with three miles to go to school, it was a long way through bush and swamp. In winters the snow was so deep the children had to get off the horse and tramp the snow down in places where it was heavily drifted so the horse could get through.

Gust and Elmina had eight children, four girls and four boys. **Elmer Waino**, the oldest, was born April 21, 1896, and attended Melita School when it was first opened. He served in the U.S. Army during World War I. Elmer lived in Minneapolis, Minnesota where he married Anna Bay of Dassel, Minnesota. After Anna passed away, Elmer moved to New Port, Washington. Elmer died on December 9, 1972. **Maimie Willina**, born February 6, 1898, also attended Melita School. She is presently living in Vancouver and is married to Charles Hoicka. **Charles Gust**, born March 29, 1900, attended Melita School and later after leaving home operated a hotel in Orofino, Idaho. He passed away in August, 1951. **Matt Arvid**, born August 31, 1902, attended Melita School. He married Hazel McFaul of Red Deer. He worked for the C.N.R., retiring to Sylvan Lake where he now resides. They have two children, Shiela Dawn and John Richard. **Ada Elida**, born January 3, 1905, attended Melita and Kuusamo Schools, married Albert Proudler of Ontario. After they were married, they lived in Sylvan Lake for a number of years before moving to Caroline where Albert sold real estate and was justice of the peace. Ada and Albert have two children. Albert passed away January 25, 1955. **John Eric**, born August 21, 1907, attended Kuusamo School. He served with the R.C.A.F. during World War II. He married Eva Mathias of Saunders Creek. They lived in Hammond, British Columbia. They have two girls. John passed away October 19, 1949. **Sylvia Katherine**, born June 2, 1911, attended Kuusamo and Eckville schools. She is married to Charles Thorkman of Eckville. They have farmed in the Saima district since their marriage. They have five girls. **Frances Louise** born November 15, 1914, attended Kuusamo and Sylvan Lake Schools. She is married to

Rupert Griffiths of Red Deer. They lived at Peace River. Frances and Rupert have five children.

Mrs. Kalaputas died at Benalto on December 9, 1918. Gust farmed for a number of years until most of the children had moved away. He sold his property to Charlie Jenkins in 1925, and retired to Sylvan Lake. He passed away January 17, 1941. Both Mr. and Mrs. Kalaputas are buried in the Kuusamo cemetery.

HOWARD AND MAY KATHOL — by Mrs. May Kathol

Howard is the second son of Louis and Anne Kathol, formerly of the Evarts district. He attended school at Evarts for nine years, and completed his grade 12 at Red Deer Composite High School. Howard later got his steam engineer ticket and worked for twelve years at this trade.

In May, 1962, Howard married May Crisp, eldest daughter of Henry and Phyllis Crisp of Monitor, Alberta. Howard and May lived in the Red Deer area before buying the Gus Woltti farm in 1967. This farm, SE 2-39-2-5, was one of the original homesteads in the Kuusamo district.

They now raise Simmental cattle, having imported several animals from Switzerland. Howard is an active member of the Benalto Elks Lodge No. 404. In 1974-75 he was exalted ruler of the Lodge.

May and Howard have five children: **Doyle, Graham, Pamela, Lori and Brent.**

ERNEST AND ENA KINNA — by E. Kinna

At the age of 32 years, I, Ernest Kinna, and my wife, Ena, at 26 years of age, purchased NW 35-38-2-5, in 1933. Kuusamo School stood inside a fenced-in two-acre site in its northwest corner. The east half-mile had a fence. Three narrow wagon trails, cleared of trees by the homesteaders criss-crossed the quarter. Bits of them still are visible. The rest of the land was a wilderness of pop-



The Kinna Orchestra — 1965. Ernest Woima (drums), Art Raabis, Mrs. Ena Kinna, Ernest Kinna.

lars, willows, saskatoon bushes and dense underbrush — a paradise for wildlife, cattle and horses.

Bear in mind this was during the hungry thirties. I was unemployed as were so many men, but none received unemployment insurance or financial assistance of any kind. One couldn't even borrow money from a bank. Fortunately Ena had an income of \$75.00 per month teaching at the Kuusamo School. This was raised to \$79.00 and due to the depression, lowered again. She taught 31 years in all.

With the help of my brother-in-law, Stan Woima, we cleared a site for a house. This clearing supplied firewood for our old iron stove (with no warming oven). We used shovels and a horse-powered scraper to dig a cellar. Carl Soderlund Jr. was hired to assist with the cement foundation and the frame structure. For several years we lived in this unfinished shell, using a homemade table, corner shelves, nail-keg seats, kerosene lamp lighting and rough spruce floors. During wet weather we made an outdoor toilet and were glad to have one. Slow but sure, tamarack posts and a barb-wire fence surrounded the quarter.

Next we rented Valli Brothers homemade outfit and drilled a well. A pump was installed and water was carried in the tall milk cans. The barn was something else. We crossed the frozen lake, cut and branched big, straight poplars. These were hauled home on bob-sleighs drawn by horses. Each log was 25 cents. They were hewed with axes and eventually became the walls of our barn. Later, we added siding on the logs, laid a tamarack pole floor, and built stalls and bins as the need arose.

From left-over logs, we made a sauna with a clothes-washing area. We bought a gas-powered washing machine which we shared with three families.

My brother, Fritz, came from Eckville with his homemade brushcutter to clear our first ten acres at \$2.25 per acre. The brush and branches were piled and burned; the poles were used as firewood, fence posts, skids. Getting men to help at \$1.50 per day was no problem. They were glad to get a job or a meal.

Gust Woltti did the breaking, which is turning the sod, at \$3.75 per acre. Next we disced it. Roots and rocks were picked by hand. Our first crop was Garnet Wheat which we sold at 40¢ a bushel. (Cutting cost \$5.00; threshing bill was \$17.30; hauling grain was \$12.00).

Mixed farming was the only way to get a trickle of cash. We had a sow in the barn and Mrs. Mary Maki gave us a hen that hatched ten chicks. They also lived in the barn. Our first cow came from Woimas but she was lonesome and refused to stay. The next cow was hauled from Eckville. She developed pleurisy and had to go. However, both critters left us a calf to start a small herd. Milk trucks picked up our milk at the gate, hauling it to Red Deer Condensery. We had our own milk, cream, butter, cottage cheese and fiili (yogurt). We ground wheat — nothing removed, nothing added — for making bread and porridge. We canned wild berries, vegetables and meat. We canned pork and beans, stew, and carrot puddings. We canned and canned. We had no refrigerators or deep-freezers. Tins of salmon were kept on hand for emergencies.

The only good piece of furniture in our front room was a Marconi radio. Neighbors met here Saturday nights for a sauna, then listened to Foster Hewitt's hockey broadcasts. There were no soft chairs so the men

sprawled on the board floor. In May, 1937, nine young people popped in to listen to the Coronation ceremonies of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth. Lively conversation and coffee took up the first few hours. Maybe we listened to other radio favorites such as Fibber McGee and Molly, or Amos and Andy. About midnight, one drowsy guest said, "Wake me up when it comes". At day break we served a light breakfast and the visitors went home to do their chores. Not one of the nine heard the broadcast! How we miss that old gang! We had fun with all the folks in the district. We didn't need to make an appointment before we called on anyone. Visitors were always welcome.

Our first team of horses, a wagon and box, cost \$165.00 in 1934. Later on we bought two more work horses. How we hated to part with them in 1958. They had served us so well. No one wanted them. They went to mink ranchers at \$5.00 each — plus two beautiful three-year-olds. John Deere tractor replaced them.

In 1954 we were hooked up to power and to a telephone line in 1960, with eight parties on the line. We had Dick German drill a new well beside the house, added a bathroom, and installed an oil furnace by 1959. Highway 11 was widened in 1953. We lost our windbreak and two and one half acres from the northern half.

In 1969 we retired, and rented our land to the very efficient "Marianne Farms", 125 acres are under cultivation. The forest areas we left purposely for beauty, wind-break, preservation of wild plants and a refuge for wildlife. "A forest is half a poor man's clothing", says a Finnish proverb. It certainly cuts the bite out of winter winds.

Today, rural dwellers have no idea what sweat and labor went into their ready-made fields. They have electricity, telephones, and city comforts in short order. We count our blessings and have great respect and admiration for the homesteaders and early settlers who opened up Kuusamo district. For that reason, we recorded and entered their histories into the Red Deer Archives, a small way of honoring them.

Our hobby through the years was to spend many sleepless nights playing at dances. No matter what the weather or road conditions, we pushed cars or inched our way through blizzards to the many big halls that dotted the towns and countryside. Sometimes we ran behind the sleigh box to keep warm. Once we came to an impassable puddle just north of Eckville. Luckily I wore my high boots, and with saxophone in hand, crossed the muck. Then we threw the boots back and forth until all the passengers got across. Money was not our goal. It was a pleasure to see happy crowds. We hoped we did our little bit.

KAARL SANFRED KOSKI — by Mrs. Ellen McTaggart

Kaarl Sanfred Koski was born June 5, 1882, at Lohtaja, Finland. Shortly after the turn of the century he emigrated to the United States. He went to Butte, Montana, because there were many of his countrymen there and he could find work in the copper mines. Although Butte was a mining boom town of the old West, it did not resemble those shown in movies whose only social life occurred in saloons. The majority of the Finnish people were young, barely out of their teens, and fired by ambi-

tion, high spirits and good health — the long hours of the industrial world of 1902 could not prevent them from enjoying themselves whenever they could. There were many social evenings organized for them by Reverend Oscar Hjelt. It was at one of these that Sanfred met Maria Frantti, later his wife, and Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Lampi who were to become his closest friends.

Maria Sophia Frantti was born March 22, 1882, at Kauhajoki, Finland. Kauhajoki is located in the beautiful rural area of middle Finland. The Frantti home was large as there were eight children. Reasonably prosperous, her parents entertained many visitors and as the guests talked about America, Maria would listen. Privately, she told her sisters, "I'm going to the New World; I'm going to America".

One day a letter came from her uncle in Red Lodge, Montana, begging Mrs. Frantti to send her eldest daughter to help in a boarding house. A ticket was enclosed. Maria's sister flatly refused to go, but Maria saw her opportunity and asked her mother if she could go instead. When her mother demurred, Maria pointed out that the ticket could not be returned. Her mother reluctantly agreed that she could go but for only a short while. A great flurry of dressmaking followed and shortly Maria was on her way on a journey she had always known she would someday take. First she travelled from Helsinki to Liverpool, where everything was very noisy and dirty, then on to New York. The voyage was rough and many people were desperately ill, but Maria was a good sailor and arrived in good spirits. The "wait" at Ellis Island, where the people emigrating were quarantined, Maria found most frustrating. The emigrants were lined up in rows and doctors and nurses walked up and down staring and prodding as if they were not human. Many were rejected and sent back home; Maria remembered how some would lie sobbing for hours. Ironically, some of these were ill because they had been vaccinated in order to make the journey.

All was well for Maria, however, and after seeing the great noisy city of New York, she travelled west to Red Lodge. She stayed with her uncle for a year and then left to work in Butte, Montana. She planned to work for about a year and return home but she met Sanfred Koski. They were married in the Reverend Oscar Hjelt's home December 15, 1904. A few months after her marriage she received word that her mother was very ill. The letter was from her mother's doctor and stated that Mrs. Frantti had tuberculosis and that there was no cure. In June, 1905, Maria returned to Finland, remaining there until March, 1906. During this time Maria's mother died and Maria's first son, Wilfred, was born on October 5, 1905. Maria and her son returned by way of Montreal, across Canada to Fort Macleod, and then on to Butte.

In 1906, many miners were leaving Butte for the rural areas of Canada and the United States. In 1904, Reverend Oscar Hjelt had been to Red Deer where he had filed for a homestead in the Snake (Sylvan) Lake area. In 1905 he returned to Butte where he interested several of the Finnish men in the Northwest Territories region. Isaac Lampi, among others, made a trip with him to see some of the available land. Mr. Lampi was very interested in the Hjelt homestead because it had a log house already built on it where he could house his family. When he returned to Butte for his family, he persuaded Sanfred

Koski to come to Canada with him. Sanfred found land that was free but not in a location he liked. The land he bought for \$500.00 from the C.P.R. was 104 acres, W½ 15-39-2-5. This was five miles west and two miles north of the present town of Sylvan Lake and one half mile from his friend Isaac Lampi's land, now known as Camp Woods.

Sanfred and Maria had found a place of incredible beauty and rich soil where grass grew "to her waist". It was parkland with large open places and lots of trees. They found many teepee rings behind their home where Indians had camped. After their arrival they saw many Indians who passed by silently — neither friendly nor unfriendly to those who had intruded on their domain.

This was a very happy time for the Koski and Lampi families. The district was well settled with good neighbors and there were many picnics on both their places as they were both on the lake shore. Finnish people have a natural love of lakes and their settlements in the United States and Canada are often on lakes. There were picnics such as the Kala-mojaka (fish chowder) picnic. These picnics were held at various times, but the biggest events took place on the Sunday closest to the longest day of the year — the festival of midsummer called "Juhannus". Early on the day of the picnic the men would catch the fish, clean them, and start the fires. The women brought cake and bread. The fish were cooked right on the beach, in large pots. Potatoes, milk, butter and herbs completed this delicious dish. The meal was served at noon with everyone helping. In the afternoon coffee was served. There were games and races for all ages. It was a get-together for all the people in the district at a time when the crop was in and the roads were good; and it provided a brief respite in their busy lives.

Maria and Sanfred built their first house and sauna with a good deal of help from the neighbors. Their second son Waino was born April 6, 1907. They needed more money to continue the farm and although Sanfred had tried leaving Maria alone, it was much too difficult for her. So they went to Coleman in 1908 where Sanfred worked in the McGillveray Mine? A daughter, Alma Ester, was born May 16, 1909. In 1910 disaster struck — an epidemic of scarlet fever. Their little son Waino died at the age of three; Wilfred, barely five, lost his hearing. They stayed at Coleman until May, 1911, two months after their third son, Armas Walter, was born. They felt they must leave the mines because there were too many disasters of one kind or another. The mines were not safe for the men and the many epidemics were especially hard on families with small children. Back at Sylvan Lake, Sanfred worked as if he were possessed during the summer of 1911. He built barns, erected fences, and cleared land. When Maria would ask him not to work so hard he would laugh and say that soon he and Isaac Lampi would sit idle and fish all the time — as soon as they got a little more work done. It was like a premonition, for that same fall, when he came home from a threshing job, he laughed and joked but went to bed without any supper. He had an infection in his middle finger of his left hand, and stayed in bed for a week in a steadily worsening condition. He went to the hospital in Red Deer where he died November 24, 1911, at the age of 29. He is remembered as being a friendly person with a great love of life and a good sense of humor.

Maria was now in desperate straits. She had three children, the oldest six years old and the youngest a baby of six months, and a farm not wholly paid for. Winter was at hand; she had cattle and chickens to care for and she could barely leave the house.

It is a great tribute to the Finnish people of the community that she survived. Isaac Lampi looked after her business affairs and organized such things as finding men to cut fire-wood and hay for her. The Ignatius family sent her their son who helped her with the chores. People, near and far, helped her in every way that they could. Shortly after Sanfred's death, Mrs. Lampi, Maria's best friend, died in child-birth and her husband died a short while after. It is ironic that Sanfred and Isaac, who were inseparable companions in life, were to die within a year of one another. However, the people of the community continued to help the young widow. The families who had children old enough to help sent their daughters to help in the house so that Maria could work outdoors. With the help of young George Ignatius, she cut wood, cut hay and tended to the stock.

The children of this family include **Wildfred Nicholas**, born October 5, 1905, at Kauhajoki, Finland. He attended the Winnipeg School for the deaf from 1920 to 1926. He resided in Sylvan Lake. His writing, which was his only way of communicating, was better than that of many with hearing and several years of schooling. He did carpentering, painting and lawn work. He died May 5, 1976. **Waino Sanfred**, born April 6, 1907, at Sylvan Lake, died June 18, 1910 at Coleman, Alberta. **Alma Ester**, born May 16, 1909, at Coleman, married Dave Peters. Widowed, she has six children and now resides in Sylvan Lake. She enjoys sewing, and visits from her children and grandchildren. **Armas Walter**, born March 28, 1911, at Coleman, died November 7, 1918 at Sylvan Lake.

This history is continued under Samuel Abrahamson.

SAMUEL ABRAHAMSON — by Mrs. Ellen McTaggart

Samuel Abrahamson was born Samuel Rautio, January 20, 1881, at Karunko, Finland, (Tornio Province). He left Finland in 1903, by crossing the Tornio River into Sweden. Because he was of military age, he applied for his passport under the name of Abrahamson to avoid being drafted into the Russian army. He emigrated to Quebec where he found employment on a railway maintenance crew. In 1905, he came west to Bellevue, Alberta, where he worked as miner in the Bellevue Collieries until 1910.

Then he homesteaded a few miles north of Rocky Mountain House. The lack of money on the homestead became oppressive so he moved to Sylvan Lake to work on the new railway being built between Red Deer and Rocky Mountain House. In Sylvan Lake, he met Mrs. Maria Koski and they were married August 29, 1913 by Pastor Andrew A. Harju. The witnesses were Sifert and Ellen Jarvi. Maria and Samuel continued to live on the farm and four children were born to them. Samuel left the farm many times working as a logger, cutting railroad ties on contract, and as a teamster in the Saunders Creek and Horbourg areas, in order to increase the family income.

In 1918, flu struck the community and death came to almost every household. Maria lost her youngest son, Armas Walter Koski, of her first marriage two days after one of her children was born.

In 1938 Samuel purchased the Robert Karjala estate across the lake from his farm, and continued to farm both, with his sons until 1953 when it was sold to Toivo Kokkinen of Eckville. In 1958 they sold the original farm to Judge M. M. Porter and retired to live in the town of Sylvan Lake. Samuel died in February, 1962, and Maria died in December, 1966. They are both buried in Kuusamo Cemetery.

Maria came to the "New World" because she wanted travel and adventure. She was high-spirited and quick. She had great pride and hated to ask for assistance. Clever with her hands, she was an excellent dressmaker and could also weave and spin. A great reader of both English and Finnish papers, she taught her children to read Finnish.

Her son Wayne, an accomplished gunsmith practiced this art from the age of nine. He could make his own gunpowder when he was twelve. One day his powder was drying too slowly so he put it in the warming oven of the kitchen stove. Maria was baking bread and to her surprise and shock, the gunpowder blew up. She ran across the yard in fear, lost her temper on the way, and returned with equal speed to chastise the young gunsmith.

Samuel liked Canada and did not have trouble finding employment. He was an extremely healthy person, neither drank nor smoked, and was very careful of what he ate. He enjoyed a long and happy life and was never ill until shortly before his death.

Their children are: **Arvo Into Abrahamson** born June 22, 1914, at Sylvan Lake, Alberta. Arvo resides in Sylvan Lake. He is interested in current events and enjoys gardening. **Elli (Ellen) Maria**, born August 4, 1916, at Sylvan Lake, married John McTaggart. She lives at Sylvan Lake. Ellen's husband died suddenly November 8, 1972. After that she moved to her cottage at Half Moon Bay as a permanent resident with her daughter Michele. The oldest daughter Jacqueline Dryden resides in Calgary. She has two daughters, Debra and Mary born July 1973 and August 1976, respectively. **Wayne Elmer**, born November 5, 1918 at Sylvan Lake married, has two daughters and one son. He now lives in Innisfail, Alberta. Wayne served with the Sherbrooke Fusiliers in active duty overseas in World War II seeing action in Holland, Belgium, and Germany. He also served nine months with the army of occupation in Germany. **Helgie Samuel**, born August 21, 1922, at Sylvan Lake. In 1942 he enlisted for active duty in the army and served three years at various points on the West Coast. Discharged in February, 1946, he returned to Sylvan Lake. He was granted a homestead lease on NE 11-39-2-5 in November, 1946. In 1961 he sold the shore section of this land which became the subdivision known as Half Moon Bay. In 1968 he received an award for his service as weather observer and reporter for the Department of Transport.

ANDREW KUHUNA — by Mrs. Ena Kinna

Andrew Kuhuna (or Kuhna), unmarried, proved homestead SE 10-39-2-5 about the year 1901. He went to work in Crow's Nest Pass and was robbed, then murdered there.

The late August Pitkanen purchased the Kuhna quarter. It is now owned by Gordon Bowen.

GUSTAVE EHRLER AND AUGUST ANGEHRN — by Mrs. Ena Kinna

Gustave Ehrler and his sister must have had an urge to travel or a longing for a simple way of life to leave their luxurious home in Switzerland to live in the North West Territories. Their parents owned an exclusive hotel; their mother was a baroness.

Gustave proved homestead NE 3-39-2-5, now owned by Roy Mattson. He brought European culture into the community with his accordion playing. He never tired of telling the neighbors about the time he assisted the Queen of Netherlands to cross a bridge when she was canoeing.

Miss Ehrler married August Angehrn, who farmed the land across the road from them, now owned by Glen Henderson. The Angehrns and Ehrlers left their farms and moved to an acreage near Seattle, Washington, about 1913. They sold their farms here in 1918.

Gustave remained single and worked on Angehrn's dairy farm until his death. He made a trip back here once.

Mr. and Mrs. August Angehrn had one daughter, Elsie, and five sons. A son, Gust, farms at Kent, Washington, U.S.A. Elsie lives on a farm in Oregon. Mrs. Angehrn passed away July 4, 1971, age 85. Mr. Angehrn died several years ago.

THE KUJALA FAMILIES

MATT AND MATILDA KUJALA were born in Finland but came to Belt, Montana, U.S.A., where Matt worked in a coal mine. They came to Canada, to Red Deer, N.W.T., in 1901 and filed a homestead on NE 4-39-2-5. Their homesteading days were like those of all the pioneers. The land had to be cleared with an axe and a grub hoe; brush piled by hand and burned and the breaking done with horses and a walking plow. The cows were milked by hand and the milk was hauled to the T. B. Millar cheese factory in Kuusamo, or separated and the cream sold or made into butter. In those early years the whole family was involved in working the land and doing chores. The women had to wash the clothes by rubbing them on the washboard. All the water was drawn in a pail with a pulley from the well and carried by pails to the house or the livestock. Wood was used for the cook-stove and heater. It was cut with an axe, hauled home to be sawed by a handsaw, split with an axe, carried into the house and then carried out as ashes. Their house was small but it was always open for strangers and friends. They were good neighbors and took an active part in the life of the community.

There were six girls and five boys in the family: namely, Mary, (Mrs. Jack Franz), Joe, Helia, (Mrs. Zachery), Walfred, Vieno, Maimie, Elmer, Lempi, (Mrs. Slaughter), Ivy, (Mrs. Kasper), Walter and Edwin. At the present time Ivy lives in Vancouver, British Columbia, and Lempi is in Santa Monica, California, U.S.A.

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Franz owned, and for a short time lived on NE 33-38-2-5 where Vince and Goerge Bell now live. They built a house and a barn but went back to U.S.A. where they have passed away, as have all the others except Ivy and Lempi. Mr. Kujala passed away January, 1941, and Mrs. Kujala some years later. They are buried in a family plot in the Kuusamo Cemetery.

WALFRED KUJALA was born October 12, 1897, at Sand Coulee, Montana, U.S.A. and came with his parents to Canada in 1901. He was overseas in World War I and served for a time as a military police. In 1925 he married Elsie Moillanen at Tacoma, Washington, U.S.A. Elsie was born April 14, 1906, at Butte, Montana, but came to this area with others of her family. Walfred and Elsie bought the NW 33-38-2-5, on the No. 11 highway, through the V.L.A. He farmed for many years but also worked in Sylvan Lake as a mechanic in Untinen's Garage or as an assistant at Tony's Blacksmith Shop.

Elsie had the misfortune to be ill with arthritis which left her a wheel-chair patient for several years. She was always friendly and cheerful. Their many friends will always remember Walfred's devotion to her until they passed away, Elsie on August 7, 1971 and Walfred a few days later on August 10, 1971. They were buried together on the same day in the Kuusamo Cemetery.

EDWIN KUJALA, the only child of Walfred and Elsie, was born in 1926 in Red Deer. He attended school at Kuusamo and Benalto. In 1947 he married Dorothy Olson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Knut Olson from Bentley, Alberta. She was born January 16, 1931, in Bentley, attended a rural school, Boyle, until her parents moved to Sylvan Lake where she continued her education. Dorothy worked as a telephone operator in Sylvan Lake. Edwin worked on seismic crews for Gulf Oil from 1951 to 1963. In 1964 he decided to farm but also work for the Hudson Bay Oil and Gas. He owns and operates his own plane, a Cessna, and has his airstrip on the farm.

Lois was born in 1948 at Red Deer, but passed away in 1951 from leukemia. She was buried in the Kuusamo Cemetery. Karen was born in Eckville, Alberta, in 1951, attended school in Sylvan Lake where she graduated. She and Ron Hyde were married on October 16, 1971, at Calgary, where he works with the city police, and Karen works at the Anderson Exploration. Deborah was born in Red Deer in 1954, attended school at Sylvan Lake, and at Lindsay Thurber Composite High School in Red Deer, where she graduated. She also is a graduate of Psychiatric Nursing from Ponoka. On September 11, 1976, she married Wayne Weidman from Eckville, a son of LaVern and Rozalma Weidman. He graduated from Eckville school. Wayne is a backhoe operator for N. R. Hunt in Eckville and they live at the Walfred Kujala home site on the No. 11 highway. Darcey was born in Pincher Creek in 1960. He is attending school at Sylvan Lake as is Douglas who was born in 1967 in Eckville. Both Darcey and Douglas are sports-minded and play hockey on the Sylvan Lake school teams.

DANIEL BOONE LEARNED AND FAMILY — by Mrs. Ena Kinna

Notices in the Washington, U.S.A., newspapers urged settlers to come to the "promised land", Canada. Daniel Boone Learned, 48 years of age, a sawyer in a sawmill at Angle Lake, Washington, read these notices and dreamed of raising wheat in Canada. In the summer of 1906, Dan Weber, an old friend of the Learneds from Oklahoma, came for a visit.

Mr. Learned and Mr. Weber decided to come to Alberta to look at, and possibly buy, some land. They

arrived by train in Red Deer, and heard of a section of C.P.R. land west of Snake Lake, in the Kuusamo district, which was for sale. They bought this section for \$7.00 per acre. Mr. Weber chose the north half of the land, and D. B. Learned was pleased to get the south half of section 25-38-2-5 because of all the spruce and poplar timber on it. The newly-constructed Kuusamo School was situated on the northwest corner of the Learned land.

While Dan Weber stayed on to build a cabin, D. B. Learned returned to Angle Lake, Washington, to tell his wife and family the news, and to dispose of his property — a large house and 15 acres of land. This property now is part of the Seattle-Tacoma Airport.

For Mr. and Mrs. D. B. Learned this was to be their second pioneering venture. Daniel Boone and his future wife, Hattie Dell Rivers, were both born in Athens, Ohio; the former August 5, 1858, and Miss Rivers on February 20, 1865. In 1882, they were married in their home town. Mr. Learned taught school and Miss Rivers was one of his former pupils. By 1889, when the family consisted of three children, Mr. Learned gave up teaching school and with other pioneers started from Athens, Ohio, to claim land in the Cherokee Strip. He made the run with a team of horses, a wagon and a plow, from the west of Turkey Creek, Oklahoma, and secured his claim on April 22. On October 23, of the same year, Mrs. Learned and the children arrived on the claim. Here, in the ensuing years, Mr. Learned took an active part in many community and political affairs. For several years, he was a member of the local school board, and from 1896 to 1901, was an elected member of the general assembly. But in the latter part of 1901, poor health forced Mr. Learned to make a move. The Learneds with their family of eight children, sold their holdings and moved to Angle Lake, Washington. Here, two more children were born before the Learneds made their move to Alberta.

In December, 1906, D. B. Learned returned to the land he had bought west of Red Deer to start a house for the family. The three eldest children: **Maude, Earl and Edmon** remained in the U.S., and in January, 1907, Mrs. Hattie Learned and seven children arrived in Red Deer. They spent the winter in a rented house, and in the spring, when the storey-and-a-half frame house was livable, they moved to the farm. No well had been dug, so, for the first while, snow was melted for water, and later water was hauled from a creek. With pick and shovel, blasting with small charges of dynamite, and pulling up the dirt and slush with an old windlass, they reached water in the four-foot diameter square well, at a depth of 32 feet. That same spring, D. B. Learned hired Alex Kinnunen Jr. to break 20 acres of sod. The breaking was done with a walking breaking-plow, at a cost of \$4.00 per acre. The field was then planted to winter wheat. In 1908, the grain was sold for seed to various pioneers at \$1.00 a bushel in the bin. A trip to the mill in Lacombe with a load of this wheat gave the family flour and middlings for bread and porridge for over a year.

Tragedy struck while Mr. Learned was harvesting this wonderful first crop. A son, **Michael**, almost 16 years of age, who had been ill for about a week, died of peritonitis. He was buried in the Red Deer Cemetery in 1908.

During that first winter, Mr. Learned and the older boys cut some of the spruce and poplar timber on their

land. These logs were hauled on a homemade sled about one and a half miles, to a portable sawmill, owned by Joe Boquet. Here the logs were sawed into lumber and used in the construction of a barn and other buildings. To make the runners for the sled, Mr. Learned searched for poplar logs having a natural curve. Runners, about 14 feet long and 10 inches deep, were then hewed out. After the sled was sturdily braced and cross-beamed, it was ready for use. The sleigh-ride with a load of logs was not too unpleasant, but, if there was much snow, the driver not only had a bumpy ride, but found the sled hard to steer and turn in this deep snow.

In the fall of 1908, after the wheat crop had been harvested, this same 20-acre field was planted to timothy. The following June, an extremely heavy crop of hay was mowed. An old picture, published in "The Farm and Ranch Review," shows Kenneth Learned mowing this hay. It was as high as the horses' backs. But it seemed this crop was going to be a total loss. That summer it rained and rained. The hay was turned more than once. It blackened and just couldn't be dried. The decision was finally made to leave the hay in the field, and burn it later. But late that summer, some contractors, who were to build the Canadian National Railroad to the west, set up camp on the Learned farm. Suddenly, there was a market for that hay. It was raked up and sold at \$10.00 per rack-load as feed for the horses and mules used in the construction of the railroad. That camp provided a market for anything the farm could produce — vegetables, chickens, pork, eggs, etc.

In 1908, a team of oxen was purchased from the Armeneau Brothers. These oxen were mainly used for breaking land. They needed a lot of prodding to get any work out of them but Kenneth and B.C. Learned recall that, on trips to town, if the heel flies attacked the oxen, it was a very fast trip to Snake Lake. The first cow was purchased from the nearest neighbor, Jacob Maki. Mr. Maki told the new owner that the cow's name was Mana. In time Mana had a heifer calf, which was named Toby. So Mana-Toby was the basis for the herd which the Learneds eventually accumulated. During the early years on the farm, prairie chickens, pheasants, deer and fish played a large part in the daily diet.

In 1911, the Canadian National Railroad and the Canadian Pacific Railroad were racing to see which could build a railroad to Nordegg first. The C.N.R. went through the centre of the Learned farm, for a distance of one mile; while the C.P.R. cut off one corner. To build the railroad grade, scarpers, fresnoes, and dump wagons, pulled by mules and horses, were used. When a higher grade was needed, dirt was hauled in wagons. Part of the railroad on the Learned place crossed a strip of muskeg. This was graded with wheelbarrows.

D. B. Learned was of service to the community he lived in. For a number of years he was the local justice of the peace. He also served as a member of the Kuusamo school board.

In the early summer of 1919, the Learneds sold the farm to their son, B. C. Learned, who had just returned from the First World War. Then Mr. and Mrs. Learned moved to a small orchard at Omak, Washington. Mrs. Hattie Dell Learned died in Omak, in November, 1943, and Daniel Boone Learned died in February, 1947, in

Seattle, Washington. Both Mr. and Mrs. Learned are buried in the Omak Cemetery.

Kenneth V. married Jennie Woima. They moved to Seattle, Washington, after living for a few years in Kuusamo. Kenneth played the violin and Jennie the piano for dances. While here, they had three children: **Irene** (Mrs. Barrett) went to school at Kuusamo. She is a widow and lives in Anchorage, Alaska; **George** has passed away; **Ellis** lives in Seattle, Washington. After Jennie's death, Kenneth moved to Lynnwood, Washington, where he now resides.

Lena, better known as Mrs. Chris Moore, resided in Sylvan Lake for several years. Her husband was a carpenter and he helped design and build the Alexander Hotel which stood where the Golf Club House now stands. She resided in Everett, Washington.

Wayne and his family reside in Seattle, Washington. **Bessie**, Mrs. Carl Woods, lives in Seattle. **Della**, Mrs. D. Haley, resided in Spokane, Washington.

Mr. B. C. Learned, the only one of the family now residing in Canada, has been a continuous resident of Sylvan Lake or district since 1907, excepting the years he served overseas in the First World War. In June, 1915, Mr. Learned enlisted at Calgary in the 50th Battalion, C.E.F., and went overseas in October, seeing action in France. He was twice wounded. He was reported missing at Vimy Ridge and was later seriously wounded. He was sent back to England, never going to the battle field again, but was made an instructor. He was much surprised to find, among the new arrivals from Canada, three friends from Sylvan Lake: Orme McKee, Bill Pass, and Vic Pastobak.

While on sick leave in Scotland in 1917, Mr. Learned met a young school teacher, Jean B. Nisbet. They were married in July, 1918. They set sail for Canada in 1919, arriving at Sylvan Lake on April 11th on the C.P.R. train. As the train stopped, Mrs. Learned asked, "Where is the station?" Mr. Learned, pointing to a box car, said, "There." Kenneth met them at the station in a Model T Ford, but on the way to the farm it got stuck in the mud and a democrat had to be brought to take them the rest of the way.

On the 14th of April, Mr. Learned started to put in the crop, and later that year (1919) he bought the home farm from his parents who returned to Washington to make their home. He kept the farm until 1938, when he sold out, still retaining an interest in the mineral rights. He moved into Sylvan Lake, buying the present George Armeneau home. Mr. Learned operated the Tender-sweet Meat Market until 1945 when he sold it and bought the "Tourist Inn".

Mr. and Mrs. Learned had three children: **Mary**, now Mrs. Jim Bachaus, Denver, Colorado; **Hughie**, Anchorage, Alaska; **Margaret**, Mrs. Good, lives there too.

In 1942, Mr. and Mrs. Learned went by plane to Seattle to attend the Diamond wedding of Mr. Learned's parents.

Mrs. B. C. Learned led an active life in and around Sylvan Lake, having taught school at Marianne and Evarts. She was principal of Sylvan Lake School in 1923 and 1924. She was superintendent of the Sunday School a number of years and took church services on various occasions. She gave the address at the Cenotaph on V.E.

day. Mrs. Learned organized the blood-donor clinics and the T.B. clinic and collected dues when Sylvan Lake joined the Red Deer hospital scheme. She took part in the Farm Women's organizations and the Red Cross, and was constituency convener of the W.I. for six years. Mrs. Learned died May 3, 1953, and is buried in the Red Deer Cemetery.

B. C. Learned has been active in many of the local functions: such as, the K. P. Lodge, Fish and Game, Medicine Valley Hog Pool, to name a few. He was an eager sportsman and for many years was a guide and cook for big game hunters. Presently he is retired and living in the Sylvan Manor.

ARVID AND ELMER LEETI — by Mrs. Martha Leeti

Arvid Leeti was born in Finland in 1863. He came to Canada in March, 1901, from Belt, Montana, where he worked in the coal mines. He was naturalized in U.S.A., September 24, 1896, and in Alberta before he got his patent to his homestead, which was SE 30-38-1-5. This he developed and farmed until his passing April 15, 1929. Arvid was married to Sofia Miettunen. She died in 1908 and both are buried in Kuusamo cemetery.



Arvid Leeti's homestead house — 1901.

They had one adopted son **Elmer**, born in Belt, Montana, on March 24, 1899. Elmer married Martha Hietola of Eckville, and they had four children, two girls and two boys. The oldest girl, **Aileen**, born in 1928, is married to Don Ryons of Red Deer. They had six children, three girls and three boys. The oldest boy, **George**, is married and has two children. They live in Surrey, British Columbia. Aileen went to school in Sylvan Lake, and for about three years in Benalto, then in Eckville. **Helen** was born in 1936. She married Jack Anderson of Bentley. They have three girls and one boy. Helen started school in Eckville, and then went to Carritt School, and finished in Bentley. They live on the farm west of Bentley. **Irvin** was born in 1938. He is unmarried and lives on the farm, SE 19-39-1-5. He started school in Eckville, then went to Carritt School, and to Bentley. **Gordon** was born in 1942, and started school in Carritt, and finished in Bentley. He went to University of Alberta in Edmonton for four years and has a degree in engineering and is now working for an engineering firm in Edmonton. He married Johanna Lauter of Kindersley, Saskatchewan. They have two children, a girl and boy. They live at Sherwood Park, Alberta.

Martha and Elmer have 12 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Elmer Leeti died April 19, 1974. He is buried in the Kuusamo Cemetery.

Elmer Leeti and his family moved onto the John Holsworth farm at Benalto in 1940, and lived there until 1943, when they moved close to Eckville to the Weeks' place. In 1946 they bought a place on the north side of Sylvan Lake, and lived there until 1973 when they bought a house in Sylvan Lake and retired.

ALEXANDRE LOISELLE, LOUIS LOISELLE; AND WILLIAM REID — by Wanda Reid

ALEXANDRE LOISELLE, in the fall of 1899, decided to pack up his belongings at Saginaw, Michigan, U.S.A. and move his family to central Alberta. With him came his eldest son, **Louis Loisel**, and his wife Hattie (Henrietta), the daughter of Hans Gweniger of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, U.S.A. (he had fought in the U.S. Civil War on the side of the North), and their first two children **Laura**, born November 9, 1897, and **Arthur**. Also arriving by rail were three carloads of effects which included a saw mill, farm implements, furniture, 14 head of horses, and the family dog. These were hauled from Red Deer by teams and wagons over 15 miles of rough roads to the unsettled shores of Snake Lake, later renamed Sylvan Lake. A month later Mrs. Alexandre Loisel, five sons and two daughters, arrived to occupy the hurriedly constructed sod-roof log cabin. Alexandre and sons began sawing lumber and selling it to the new settlers. He filed on a homestead in the spring of 1900, which today is the main part of Sylvan Lake.

On November 26, 1900, Louis Jr. was born to Louis and Hattie, the first white child born in the town of Sylvan Lake. A new-comer, Joe Rosse, who was not familiar with the language, called young Louis "Kleine Bub", meaning in English "little boy" to distinguish him from his father. From then until his death Louis Jr. was known only as "Boob".

In 1905 Alexandre Loisel built the first hotel of sixteen rooms, a post office, and a small general store. Several years later he sold this and built a forty-room hotel which he named "Alexandre Hotel". This remained a landmark until it was destroyed by fire in 1924, the year after Alexandre died at the age of 82 years.

LOUIS LOISELLE and his wife Hattie opened a wood yard and cabin business. Ill health struck Louis and he died at the age of 69 in 1943. Louis and Hattie raised five children, namely, **Laura**, **Arthur**, **Louis Jr.**, **Alex** and **Rosie** (Mrs. R. Swenson). Hattie lived at Sylvan Lake for 68 years. She died on September 21, 1967, at the age of 88 years and is buried in the Sylvan Lake cemetery.

Laura, eldest daughter, (of Louis and Hattie) married **WILLIAM REID** who emigrated from Scotland in 1911. He joined the Canadian Army in Red Deer on January 15, 1915. They were married on September 14, 1915, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Robertson by Reverend W. G. Brown, and Bill left for overseas on October 2, 1915. He did not return home to Canada until January, 1919. On his return he bought a farm through the Soldier Settlement Board. To this marriage five boys were born, **Alex**, **Louis**, **Arthur**, **Henry** and **Ian**. The four oldest ones served in the Canadian services during World War II.

Mr. and Mrs. Reid spent their honeymoon in a tent on the homestead of Mrs. Reid's parents, Mr. and Mrs.

Louis Loisel Sr., on the land now occupied by the United Church Kasota Camp in Kuusamo. The Louis Loisel home had just burned to the ground with much of the contents.

Mr. and Mrs. Reid retired to Sylvan Lake at 5004-41 Street, from their farm on the Kasota Beach road. Mr. Reid died June 10, 1968, and is buried at Sylvan Lake.

Mr. and Mrs. O. Wilkinson, nee Clara Loisel, daughter, of Mr. and Mrs. Alexandre Loisel, had a son Kenneth. Mrs. Laura Reid and Kenneth Wilkinson are the only Loisel descendants living in Sylvan Lake.

HENRY LUND, SR. — by William Lund

The first member of the Lund families of the Kuusamo district to come to North America was Henry Lund, Sr., who was born at Karstula Vaasanlaani, Finland, on February 7, 1865.

He was married at Karstula Vaasanlaani to Johanna Harju, and, leaving his wife and young daughter in Finland, he emigrated to Fitchburg, Massachusetts, early in 1896 where he was employed in water and sewer construction. After a year, he moved to Ottawa, Ontario, where he worked on street construction for a short time. From thence, he came west to the Crow's Nest Pass area, where he worked on the construction of the Crow's Nest Pass railroad, and later in the coal mines at Coleman, Alberta. At that time, a number of his friends joined the Klondike gold rush and they tried to persuade him to go. He did consider it for a time, but, after thinking over the hardships of the trip, he changed his mind.

In the spring of 1901, he arrived in the Kuusamo district, and since the area in which it was located was not as yet surveyed, he selected a homestead under squatter's rights, five and one-half miles west of Sylvan Lake and situated on the present Highway No. 11. A year or two later, he was able to file on the land in his own right.

Shortly after selecting his homestead, Mr. Lund sent to Finland for his wife, who, accompanied by her daughter Lydia, arrived at the homestead on August 16, 1901.

Mr. Lund had a small log house ready for them. It had one window, and a roof and ceiling of split poles, with sod in between. The mattresses on the homemade beds were filled with fresh clean grass. It was haying time, and Mrs. Lund helped her husband. He cut the grass with a scythe and she raked it with a homemade rake. It was then carried on their shoulders and piled near the house. They built a barn just big enough for a cow and heifer, that had been bought from a Swedish farmer. When the fall work was done, Mr. Lund left for the Crow's Nest Pass to work in a small shack at the foot of the mountain. He became very homesick and developed a great urging to see his wife and family, and asked for a week off to enable him to go and see them. The night that he arrived at the homestead, Turtle Mountain slid down and covered the little shack where Mr. Lund and his partner had been living, with thousands of tons of rock. The partner had gone to an all-night dance at some nearby camp and was also miraculously saved from death.

One well-remembered experience of the family was in the summer of either 1904 or 1905, when they were sleeping in a granary during the warm weather. One night a hailstorm, accompanied by a high wind came, and the

roof of the building in which they were sleeping was blown off. When the roof went off the building, the family crawled under the beds. The parents looked after the two small children, but Lydia had to look after herself the best she could, while the rain fell and hail stones, as big as hen's eggs, pelted down. The terrific storm kept them from leaving the shelter of their beds to go to the house until it was all over. The house was intact but the window was broken, eight large trees in the yard were torn up by their roots, and a field of oats was pounded into the ground. In the spring of the following year, an infant daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lund died and she was buried in the first grave in Kuusamo Cemetery, which now borders No. 11 Highway and for which Mr. Lund donated five acres of his homestead.

As on all other homesteads in the area, oxen were used for field work and driving. There were at first two and later four, which Mr. Lund used to haul the wheat from the homestead, and it was some of the first wheat from the district to be hauled to Red Deer. It was all in sacks and the trips took two nights and three days, Lydia driving one team and her father the other. The wheat was sold to the Bawtinheimer mill, mixed with other grain, ground into flour and shipped to Mexico.

One fall after the crop was cut and stacked, Mr. Lund, feeling the need for more money, decided to go back to the Crow's Nest Pass and spend the winter working in the mines. He took Lydia and Henry Jr., who were quite young, to Red Deer with him, and they were to drive the team of oxen home. After Mr. Lund finished shopping for the needs of the homestead, of which a bag of salt was the most important item, he started the children on their way back home. Shortly after they left Red Deer, a thunder storm overtook them. They were still a long way from home; and night was pitch dark and they could only see during the flashes of lightning. Lydia let the oxen find their own way, and, to keep the salt and her younger brother dry, she put them under the wagon seat. It was 1:30 in the morning when they finally arrived home, and an anxious mother was waiting at the gate for them with a lantern in her hand. She had dry clothes ready for them to change into, gave them hot milk to drink and sent them to bed, and they did not even have a cold after that experience.

Mr. Lund, with the help of his sons as they grew up, cleared all of his land the hard way, with grub hoe and axe, and with big oxen or horses after most of the roots had been severed with an axe. In all, the Lund family cleared over 400 acres of bush land by that method. Most of the breaking was done with oxen and horses, although a tractor was used to do some of the last of it. Mrs. Lund once saved the homestead shack from destruction by fire while her husband was away working. A spark in some way got into the moss and sod which covered the poles on the roof and started smoldering, and it would have burned the house had she not worked fast with her bare hands, regardless of cuts, bruises and burns on them and her arms.

For many years before the railway lines built westward from Red Deer, the Lund home was a stopping place for travellers. The first house was small, but the barn had room for eight teams of horses. Mr. Lund always kept hay and oats, which he sold at cost, from 18 cents to 25 cents a bushel, to travellers for their teams.

The homestead also was a way station for freight and express wagons from Red Deer to Rocky Mountain House. One team stayed there, fed and harnessed, when a wagon was expected from east or west. When it arrived, the fresh team was hitched to it, and the other team was left behind to rest until its turn came again.

An amusing incident demonstrates how the pioneer women of different nationalities managed to understand each other in those early days. Miss Augusta Lehman, a new arrival from Baden Baden, Germany, who later married John Uster, an uncle of the late Joseph Huerliman, was then keeping house for her nephew, Willie Strach, now of San Leandro, California, and the late Joseph Heinrich, in a log house across the road from the Lund place and about 100 yards east of where Lynn Burdick's place now is. Some spruce trees that were then planted in front of the house are still there. Joseph Heinrich and Willie Strach were away working and they wrote to their neighbor, Mr. Woima, and asked if he would haul some lumber for them from a nearby mill with his sleigh before the snow was all gone. First, however, he was to get the money to pay for the lumber from Miss Lehmann. She could only speak German, and the letter from the boys had not reached her when Mr. Woima called for his money. He was unable to make her understand what he wanted and he went to Lunds to get Lydia, as Miss Lehmann had taught her quite a few words of the German language, but Lydia was not at home. Mrs. Lund said she would go, but Mr. Woima could not comprehend how that would help, as she could speak neither German or English, and Miss Lehmann could speak only German. Taking her two small children Mrs. Lund went anyway, and Mr. Woima often told afterwards that he never laughed so much or so heartily, as when he watched the two women trying to make each other understand. Each spoke their own languages, interspersed with an occasional word of English. Finally Mrs. Lund clapped her hands together three times and said what sounded to Mr. Woima like "Papa mahk, pam, pam, pam" and right away, Miss Lehmann seemed to understand. She went and got the money from under the mattress on her bed and the amount needed was counted on their fingers. Possibly the three words meant hammering, but anyway the problem was solved and Mr. Woima hauled the lumber while the sleighing was good.

Mrs. Lund died of cancer in August, 1931, at the age of 64. Although blind for seven years prior to that time, Mr. Lund enjoyed good health otherwise until only three months before he died on February 20, 1952. Both Mr. and Mrs. Lund are buried in Kuusamo Cemetery. Of the family, **Lydia**, married Mr. Sarman, who died about 1956, and Lydia died March 18, 1974. **Helja Lillian** married George Franz in 1926 and they now live in Seattle. **Henry Jr.**, who was born on July 21, 1902, and who was one of the first white children to be born in the Kuusamo district, farmed the land that his father homesteaded until 1963, when he retired and sold it to his brother, Bill. Henry was one of the directors of the Kuusamo Cemetery for many years. He died August 17, 1976, and is buried in the Kuusamo Cemetery. **Elmer** was a carpenter by trade. He was married to Sylvia Luoma. Elmer was born March 17, 1908, and passed away on November 27, 1970. Sylvia was born October, 1911, and died on January 18, 1957. Both are buried in the

Kuusamo Cemetery. They had two daughters and five sons. **Helen** (Mrs. Anderson) lives in Calgary, Alberta. Her husband is a construction foreman. **Ray's** history is under Elmer Luoma. **Eino** married Valerie Mix. They live in Calgary, Alberta. He is a foreman at Consolidated Concrete. **Ronnie** married Mabel Lauritsen. They live in Eckville, Alberta, where he works on an oil rig. **Ralph** married Sandra Mann and they farm at Bluffton, Alberta. **Howard** married Ann Setterlund. He is the school principal at Rose Briar, Alberta. **Darlene** is Mrs. S. Tsara. They live in Calgary, Alberta where he is a chef in a restaurant. Elmer and Sylvia farmed on NE 27-38-2-5, and the children attended the Kuusamo School. After Sylvia's death, Elmer worked in Uranium City, Saskatchewan, on the Dew Line, and at Frobisher Bay, N.W.T.

WILLIAM (BILL) LUND

WILLIAM (Bill) Lund is the youngest in the Henry Lund family. He was born in the Kuusamo district on December 11, 1910, and has lived there all his life excepting for four years in Edmonton (1938-1942). There he worked mostly as a cream and milk grader and receiver at the Woodland Dairy Plant, now Palm Dairies.

Bill received his education at Kuusamo School and also attended one year at the Camrose Lutheran College. He was married in 1937 to Elvie Saari of Hespero but the marriage ended in divorce about eight years later. They had a daughter, **Diana**, born in 1940. She married Frank Gwozdz of Genesee and they now live near Eckville, and have one daughter and three sons.

Bill worked for the Alberta Hail and Crop Insurance Corporation as an adjuster during 23 summers. He was active in the Farmer's Union and was both president and secretary of the local (Benalto) branch and has been a member of the Benalto Elks for many years. Bill has been an active member of the Sylvan Lake Fish and Game Association since it started and was secretary for a while, then elected its president in December, 1976. He was active in promoting that club's Niemela Fish dam near Benalto.

Bill has retired from farming, having sold all his land except the building site on the old homestead where he continues to reside.

AUGUST LUND — by William Lund

There were two other pioneer Lund families in the Kuusamo district: Matt and August, brothers of Henry Lund, Sr.

August, born 1877, arrived in the Crow's Nest Pass in 1900, his brother Henry having sent a ticket to him in Finland. In 1902, he took up a homestead six miles west and one half mile north of Sylvan Lake, NW 4-39-2-5. He sent to Finland for his wife, Aluna, as soon as he had a cabin built.

Three children were born on the homestead: **Mae**, Mrs. Thure Anderson of Vancouver; **Wayne**, born 1907, who married Irja Ojala of Bingley, lived on the homestead until his death in May, 1947. They had two children. Mrs. W. Lund moved to Rocky Mountain House. She died there. A daughter, **Lempi**, born 1911, passed away in 1919.

Mrs. August Lund, born 1876, died October 1945, after a lengthy illness. August died January, 1947. All are buried in the Kuusamo Cemetery.

MATT LUND — by William Lund

Matt Lund, stopped in Ontario on his way out from Finland in 1909 and in a short while his wife, Hanna, joined him.

In January, 1911, they came to the Kuusamo district. They took a homestead west of Leslieville but the land was too swampy. They gave it up.

Matt probably dug more wells and graves than any other man in the country. In those days, all this was done by hand as no drilling rigs were available.



Mr. and Mrs. Matt Lund.

Their only child, **Walter**, was born in 1914. With the exception of time spent in the army, World War 2, Walter has lived on the acreage the family purchased here, one-half mile north of the Kuusamo School site, four miles west of Sylvan Lake on No. 11 Highway.

Matt Lund passed away in October, 1948, at the age of 74. His widow, Hanna, loved and respected by everyone, born March 13, 1876, was a resident of the Red Deer Nursing Home until she passed away February 26, 1975. Before leaving the district, she was an active member of the Kuusamo Ladies' Club.

MATT HARJU — by William Lund

Mrs. Henry Lund, Sr., had a brother living in the district. He was generally known as "Little Harju" because another Matt J. Harju family moved here. They were not related, and Matt J. was the taller of the two men. "Little Harju" came in 1902 and proved the quarter-section of land, SW 4-39-2-5, now the property of Edwin Kujala.

Matt passed away in June, 1943. His widow moved to Vancouver and has passed away too.

Mr. Harju was a skilled carpenter, and some houses still have floors he laid and furniture he made in those early years.

ELMER LUOMA — by Mrs. Annie Luoma

One of the younger families that reside in the Kuusamo district is the family of Elmer and Annie Luoma and children. We reside on the former Elmer Lund farm, which was later owned by Raymond Lund, son of Elmer and Sylvia Lund.

I, Annie Luoma, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Tom Lauritsen, was born and raised on a farm nine miles north of Eckville. I first came to Kuusamo district when Ray Lund and I were married in December, 1960.

Although the cost of living was much cheaper than today, it was hard to make ends meet. Ray's father Elmer, two brothers, Ralph and Howard, and a sister Darlene, lived with us. Ray worked in the Lakeview Garage in Sylvan Lake for 15 years, as well as farmed. His job in the garage only paid \$80.00 per month wages. We milked a few cows by hand and shipped cream to the Sylvan Lake creamery. Later we decided to buy more cows so Ray could quit his job at the garage. With more cows to milk, we needed a milking machine, which cost \$600.00 for a two-unit milker. Good milk cows cost from \$200.00 to \$300.00 in the early 1960's. A milk truck started picking up milk at the gate, which was hauled to Red Deer.

In October 1961, a little daughter **Brenda** arrived, and in July, 1964, a son **Brian** was born.

Ray suffered from diabetes, from the age of 14 years. He passed away suddenly the day his son was born. Ray's family stayed with me for a short while after Ray's death.

Everything was more complicated now — trying to raise a family and keep the farm operating. With the help of my parents, brothers and sisters, Ray's family, and good neighbors, I got the hay mowed and baled, and the crop harvested. The crop yielded well, so I had lots of feed for the cattle.

In the latter part of December, a severe blizzard blew up. The temperature was about -40 F. with a wind chill to make an equivalent of -104 F. The water pump was frozen, so I had to thaw it to get water for the house and cattle. Of course that's the day the oil heater didn't work properly. I had the kids bundled up by the heater to keep warm, but Brenda caught cold in spite of all my efforts to keep her warm. In the blizzard some of the younger animals froze their ears and tails, and their noses bled from the frost. When spring arrived I began learning to drive the car and truck; both had standard transmissions. Finally after making many mistakes and being in the ditches a few times, I got my learner's permit and eventually my driver's license.

The one motor I could not start was an old A. R. John Deere tractor without a starter. The instructions on the fly wheel said "grasp firmly and turn briskly". After many tries it still wouldn't start; consequently, the neighbour still had to plow my garden. The following year I got the crop sown with the help of my parents. The hay was put up on shares and the crop was harvested by neighbours and friends, thanks to the nice fall weather.

In December, 1965, Elmer Luoma and I were married in the Presbyterian Church in Sylvan Lake. Elmer is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Eric Luoma, who

homesteaded on the northwest corner of Sylvan Lake. They had a family of twelve children. Elmer still owns a quarter of land in that area which we farm. Everything is improving on the farm with a husband to make decisions and keep things going more smoothly. In November, 1966, Brenda and Brian were delighted to get a step-brother, **Randy**.

The three children are bussed to school in Sylvan Lake. Brenda is in grade ten, Brian is in grade seven, and Randy is in grade four. The time goes by so quickly; the children grow up, and they will soon be gone to make lives of their own. School days are a real contrast today from the time my husband and I went to school. We both went to a one-room country school with grades one to nine inclusive. Elmer was fortunate; he lived only one and one-half miles from Siam School, whereas I had three miles to Andrew School. Elmer took all his schooling in Siam, later going on to diesel mechanics. He then worked on the D.E.W. line. I went from grades one to six in Andrew School until it closed. I was then bussed to Eckville, finishing high school there.

The year of 1976 brought a big change on the farm. We have built a milkhouse and purchased a bulk tank. The milk truck now takes the milk directly from the bulk tank. As of January 1, 1976, the Condensery discontinued buying milk in cans. Boy, oh boy! we sure don't miss handling those eight-gallon cans. Our neighbour and ourselves had to haul our own milk to Red Deer for two years because there wasn't enough can shippers to run a milk truck on our route.

The sixteen years I have spent in the Kuusamo district have been filled with many happy, and some sad experiences, but it is a wonderful district to live in, among good neighbours and friends.

JACOB MACKIE — by Mrs. Ena Kinna

Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Mackie immigrated to the Red Deer area in 1900. They farmed on a homestead, NE 26-38-2-5. About 1913 they built what was then a fairly large two-storey frame house, Isaac Porttin being the carpenter. This house was moved to Sylvan Lake in the winter of 1919 by Kenneth Learned and Arthur Johnson with sleighs and horses. In 1964 this same building was again moved to another site.



Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Mackie — 1922.

In 1918 the Mackies, selling their farm to Mr. S. A. Riekki, retired on a small acreage on the outskirts of Sylvan Lake. Mrs. Mackie died in August, 1924, and Jacob in November, 1933. They both rest in the Kuusamo Cemetery.

They had two daughters and one son. **Gust** married Mary Viitala in 1901 and moved to Canmore. They had four sons and two daughters. **Helmi** married Matt Porttin. **Tyone** married William Laitinen of Salmon Arm, British Columbia. They have two daughters and one son. Mrs. Laitinen passed away in April, 1964, and is buried at Salmon Arm.

ERIK MAKI AND GUST MAKI — by Mrs. Ena Kinna

The Lutheran Minister's Council of the United States gave Erik Maki authority to act as a minister to bury the dead, perform marriage ceremonies, baptize the young, and hold church services. All these he did when asked to do so in the Kuusamo district from 1904 until 1928 without charging a fee.

Erik came to Canada from Wyoming in March, 1903. With him were his wife, one daughter, **Mary**, and two sons, **Gust** and **Oiva**. He had worked in a mine for several years, but decided that a homestead in Canada would give him a chance to live and work in the fresh air. Mining conditions were poor in those days. It was dangerous work and compensation and pensions had never been heard of. The mine at Diamonville, Wyoming was beginning to run out and the settlement is now a ghost town. The family travelled for a week on their way to Red Deer, stopping at night at immigrant halls along the way.

They spent several days at Red Deer until Mr. Maki and Gust found suitable land for a homestead. The quarter-section that they decided one was covered with poplar trees and tall grass, and they made a well that gave them plenty of good drinking water by digging a hole in the ground with a shovel. Lumber was bought at Red Deer and hauled to the homestead by horses and a sleigh by Mr. Mattson. A two-room house was built by Mr. Maki and Gust and later they added a room built of logs. That building is still on the farm and is used as a granary. A barn and a chicken house were built of poplar poles. The chickens were not a success as weasels killed them.

Three children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Maki after they came to Canada. **Helen**, **Ina** and **Eino**, and Mrs. Maki died a few hours after Eino's birth on January 12, 1911. The winter of 1911 was cold. The snow was deep and it was around 40 degrees below zero during the whole month of January. Mr. Maki and his family had quite a struggle that cold winter. An elderly woman was hired to take care of the small baby for a year, then Mrs. Palm took the small boy for about eight months. After that, Mr. Maki brought the baby home and the young sisters took care of him and did the cooking for the whole family. Erik Maki spent his last years, after retiring from active farming, living with his children. He died in 1928 at the age of 69.

The oldest daughter, **Mary**, married John Maki just a few weeks before her mother's death. Although of the same name, they were not related. She and her husband then moved to his homestead in the Oras district. Mary took part in all the playes held in the various halls throughout the area, and walked or drove with horses

many miles to attend rehearsals. John Maki in later years became an invalid suffering from arthritis. They had a family of two: Laimie and Wilfrid. Wilfrid lives at home and works the farm. Laimie taught school at Saima, Benalto, and Taimi schools for ten years altogether. She and some of the pupils planted the trees around the then new school at Benalto. After giving up school teaching, she obtained employment in the civil service in Ottawa. She is retired and lives in Sylvan Lake. **Oiva** left home soon after his mother died and is now in Houghston, British Columbia. **Helen** is Mrs. Armand Doray of Winnipeg and **Ina** is Mrs. Standen of Los Angeles.

GUST MAKI was born in Finland in 1882 and came to the United States at five years of age. In his early years in the Kuusamo district, he played the violin for dances all around the country. Many a waltz, one-step, two-step, three-step, four-step, seven-step, French minuet, Spanish waltz and quadrille has he played for dancers who danced from early evening to day-break.

In June, 1915, he enlisted at Red Deer with the 66th Edmonton Battalion for overseas service in the First World War. Following demobilization after four years service, he made use of the Soldier Settlement offer and bought his father's quarter-section two and one-half miles north of Elspeth hall, but later moved to two quarters they bought two miles north of the hall. He became secretary-treasurer for Saima School district for many years, and then served in the same capacity with the Rocky Mountain school division for some time. He served as councillor for the Municipal District of Lorne, now part of the County of Lacombe for 20 years. Those who know, speak of the many services rendered by him to the settlers who could not speak English. Many a day's work was left undone while Gust acted as interpreter in legal and other affairs. He filled in forms, wrote letters, listened to all the troubles and gave advice to those who otherwise were unable to understand what was going on. He died in the Eckville Municipal Hospital on April 16, 1965, at the age of 82 and is buried in the Kuusamo cemetery.

MATTSON FAMILIES — by Roy Mattson

Matt Peter Mattson emigrated from Finland in the late 1800's to Belt, Montana. He married Maria Katherin Unkuri, date unknown.

At the turn of the century, several male members, discontented with the coal mines, left Montana to seek homestead land that was available in Canada. Travelling through the prairies they reached the parkland and chose the Snake Lake area. This area was very appealing as it resembled their native homeland with heavy timber and lakes.

Travel into the Red Deer area was by rail. Land was purchased from the district land office in Red Deer for \$10.00 per quarter-section. This area was unsurveyed except for the correction line (highway No. 11). Approximate quarter-sections were picked from topography and the existing survey of the correction line. Survey later identified their homesteads as the SW 10-39-2-5. A site was picked for their first home and construction began immediately. Construction was of log with a sod roof; the size was approximately 14' x 20'.

Returning to Red Deer, they sent for their families. A horse was purchased from Elias Cronquist, supplies were



Matt Mattson Family — 1917. L. to R. — Matt, Eino, Mary holding Armas, Jenny, Wayne, Emil. George missing.

picked up and the family of four set out for their new home. The trip from Red Deer usually took one long day. Many problems were encountered. Mud holes were frequent, and it was not uncommon to unload the wagon and supplies in order to free it. The major trouble spot was around the south side of Snake (Sylvan) Lake town. Settlers arriving about the same time were the Kujala and Woltti families.

Food was mainly fish from the lake, wild berries and game. Land was cleared by axes and hoes; the horse was used to pull out stubborn tree roots. Brush and grass fires were a serious problem, and many days were spent fighting fires. Oats and potatoes were the first crops grown, and threshing was done by the flail method. In later years, the rotary oxen driven machine was used. This was owned by the Kingseps of Eckville. The Langens from Eckville introduced the first custom steam outfit in this area.

Mail was first picked up in Red Deer community mail boxes, found at several locations. Anyone going to Red Deer, or travelling through, would pick up the community mail and leave it in these boxes. Evarts later became the post office.

Many early settlers travelling into the Eckville or Gilbey area would stay overnight in this area.

Cattle were soon introduced, most being the dual purpose variety. Milk was sold and traded at the Millar cheese factory, located at SE 2-39-2-5. Blackleg and poisonous plants took a heavy toll of their cattle herds.

The first school attended was Melita, a distance of four and one-half miles. A school was moved on NW 35-38-1-5, (Kuusamo), later on.

Additional land was purchased in 1918, NE 3-39-2-5, from Ehrler at \$17.00 per acre. The log house was then

replaced by a modern three-room log and frame structure in 1912. This dwelling was used until its destruction by fire in 1952.

Matt Mattson passed away during the epidemic of 1918. Mary Mattson continued the farming, assisted by the oldest son, Emil. Mary passed away at the age of 89, in 1961.

Six children were born to Matt and Mary Mattson: **Emil** in 1897; **George** in 1899; **Jenny** in 1902; **Wayne** in 1907; **Eino** in 1911; and **Armas** in 1917. Eino attended the Camrose Lutheran College. He was an excellent musician, playing many different instruments in local orchestras. He passed away in 1935. Armas farmed with his parents in his early years. He later was employed in the logging industry in Vancouver where he passed away in 1941. George married Senija Kemilla. They resided in the Condor area, and later the Sylvan Lake area. They had two children: Walter of Red Deer, and Viola Reese of California. George passed away in 1943. Wayne married Helvi Porttin in 1932 and farmed on the NE 9-39-2-5. The children born to them were Evelyn Hambly of Evarts and Norman of Edmonton. Wayne passed away in 1963. Jenny married John Harju in 1924 and farmed on the SE 33-38-2-5. They had three children: **Raymond**, who lives on the original farm; **Violet Dell** of Ponoka; and **Margaret** of Sylvan Lake. Margaret has worked in the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce for years. Jenny passed away in 1967.

Emil came to the Kuusamo district with his parents in 1901. Being the eldest in the family, his early boyhood years were spent clearing land, and helping to raise the younger members of the family. In 1918, he served in the Canadian Army and was shipped overseas. His army training was at Sarcee at Calgary. With his training he

took up wrestling and became a champion in his class. On his return from the army, he continued with the family farming operation. In 1924, he married Saima Mary Hill. They continued farming on the original homestead, until 1963, then retired to Sylvan Lake, where they still reside.

Four children were born to them. **Florence**, married Araldo Byttnen in 1946 and has two daughters: Colleen Dunnigan, and Jane Kirkwood, who both reside in Edmonton. The second daughter, **Helen**, resides in Edmonton and is employed by Alberta Government Telephones. **Roy**, now farming the original homestead, married Marie Hyer of Yellow Grass, Saskatchewan, in 1959. They have three children: Karin, Clayton and Steven. Emil's youngest son, **Albert**, passed away in 1947 from an accident on the farm.

First car purchased — 1918 — “Gray Dort” — \$900.00.

First tractor — 1920 — “Avery” — 12 horsepower.

WAYNE MATTSON — by Evie Hambly

Wayne was the youngest in the family of Mary and Matt Mattson. He was born in 1907, grew up, attended school, and farmed in the Kuusamo district.

Wayne married Helvi Porttin in 1932. They lived in the Umari farm until 1934 when they purchased the NE 9-39-2-5 from S.E. McKee. Wayne built their home from logs obtained from the quarter, and later a barn was built in a similar manner. These buildings are still very much in use although improved with modern facilities. They farmed here until Wayne's death in 1963.

Two children were born to Wayne and Helvi: **Evelyn** (better known as Evie) and **Norman**, both attended school at Kuusamo, Benalto and Red Deer. Evie, now married to Terry Hambly, is living in the Evarts district. Norman married Elaine Kuores of the Marianne district in 1962. They have two children, Sherry and Greg, and are currently living in Edmonton. Norman is a registered Alberta Land Surveyor, and is a partner and co-founder of the firm, Coordinate Survey's Ltd.

The home quarter is still owned by Helvi. After Wayne's death, she worked in Red Deer until 1970 when she married Robert Parker of Red Deer. Bob is employed by Alberta Transportation and they are currently living in High Prairie, Alberta.

SAMUEL E. MCKEE AND FAMILIES — by Elmer McKee

Samuel Edmund McKee was born in Guelph, Ontario, on July 11, 1856. On March 23, 1892, he married Sarah M. Lane, who was born in the Erin County, Ontario. A new home was set up. This was a long and happy marriage, and, although there were many privations and times of severe testing, each encouraged the other, and they bravely met the trials together.

Because of the depression in farming, they moved to Brandon, Manitoba in 1897 with their two sons. Here Mr. McKee was engaged in carpentry work. It was here their daughter Elsie was born. In the spring of 1901, the family moved to Red Deer where Mr. McKee got work immediately. He was contractor and builder for many of the first big buildings in Red Deer, including Dr. Leonard Gaetz Memorial Church, first Advocate office, and the Purdy Block, which was later occupied by the W. E. Lord



Samuel McKee picking potatoes — Home built in 1919.

Co., and now forms part of the present site of the T. Eaton Co.

Mr. McKee took an interest in public affairs and served on the town council from 1907-1909, and was elected mayor in 1910. He also took a great interest in the Baptist Church and was instrumental in building a brick sanctuary on the southeast corner of 49 Avenue and 51 Street.

During the first few years they spent in Red Deer, two sons, Samuel Elmer, and John Emerson were born. With his boys growing up, Mr. McKee decided it was an opportune time to resume farming, so they purchased section 9-39-2-5, five miles west of Sylvan Lake, and one mile north, in the Kuusamo district. In September, 1910, the family of seven moved out to the farm. Mr. McKee, with the help of his sons, cleared and broke the land, constructed a fine set of farm buildings, and also did considerable building for his neighbors. The McKee home was a stopping place for many as they travelled by team through the country to the west. The old Burnt Lake Trail angled through this section to the south. As many as twenty unexpected guests were accommodated at times, and lasting friendships were made.

There were times when death visited a poor home; in fact, at that time, most homes were poor, and Mr. McKee would make the coffin, and at times take the funeral service. In accordance with his usual practice, he was interested in public affairs; served on municipal councils; and acted as secretary of the municipal district of Lorne. He also served for a few years as weed inspector in the municipal district which is now part of the County of Lacombe. He served on school boards and was either chairman or secretary-treasurer of the Kuusamo school district for a period of ten years. He obtained a charter for the Benalto Agricultural Society and was the first president of the organization.

Mrs. McKee, a lady of quiet disposition, with all the qualities of the early pioneers, was known for her

friendliness and hospitality over a wide area. Failing in health in the fall of 1929, she, Mr. McKee and daughter, Elsie, left for Victoria in hopes that a change of climate would be of benefit to her. This did not prove to be the case and Mrs. McKee died there on January 16, 1930, at the age of 64 years. She was interred in the Benalto cemetery.

Mr. McKee stayed on at the home farm with some of the family until June 18, 1937, when he passed away quietly as the result of a heart attack in his 81st year. He was buried beside his wife in the Benalto cemetery. At the service, to pay their respects in a simple but sincere way, the Kuusamo school pupils made a spray out of spruce boughs and crepe paper flowers. The school was closed for the afternoon. **Ormie**, the eldest son, was educated in Red Deer, and enlisted with the 187th Battalion in the First World War. After proceeding overseas he was posted with the 50th Battalion in France and was wounded at Passchendale in November, 1917. Returning home, he continued farming. In 1926 he married Ethel Holsworth, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Holsworth of the Evarts district. They made their home at Conдор for a few years, where Ormie was elevator agent, later moving to a farm just west of the home section. In 1934 they sold their farm and went into the Baptist Church ministry, continuing in this work until his retirement to Victoria in 1966. He passed away October 6, 1968, leaving to mourn his widow and son Ronnie and daughter Margaret. They all still reside on Vancouver Island.

Sarah Elsie married David Holsworth of the Evarts district December 15, 1930 where they farmed for several years before moving to Salmon Arm, British Columbia, where they still reside. They had three daughters and two sons.

Paul, the second son, married Miss Eva Samis of Olds in 1924, and proceeded to Chicago to train for the ministry. Shortly after, his wife became an invalid and they had to return home. He later farmed at High Ridge, Alberta, near Barrhead where Eva died in 1933, leaving one son, Kenneth. He later married Elsie Gibbs of Barrhead, and their family consisted of three daughters and one son. As well as farming, he served as a lay preacher in that area. After a short illness, he died July 3, 1966. His widow still resides at Barrhead.

Emerson, the youngest son, married Della Hope of Red Deer, who was teaching at the Melita school. They lived on the McKee farm until 1946 when they moved to Red Deer where he worked for different firms. In 1965 they moved to Regina, where he was bookkeeper for the Canadian Bible College for three years, after which they retired in Red Deer. He passed away October 9, 1972, and Della passed away a few months later, June 7, 1973. They had one daughter, Merla, who is now living east of Olds.

Elmer, the only remaining son, married Clara Holsworth on June 14, 1928, and farmed the home place with his brother Emerson until the spring of 1934 when they bought the Hiltonen farm, NE 34-38-2-5, just opposite the Kuusamo school. Elmer and Clara lived there until their retirement to Red Deer in March, 1973, where they still reside. Elmer was more interested in sports than his brothers were. He was active in baseball and played on the Benalto team for many years. He was also noted

for speed in foot races. He took an interest in community affairs and was secretary-treasurer of the Kuusamo School district for nineteen and a half years. In the early years the local board set the mill rate, sent out tax notices, did all their own collecting, paying all bills, and hiring of school teachers, and janitors. The secretary got \$50.00 per year for all this book work. Through these early years, he also acted as master of ceremonies for Red Cross and school functions; he even acted as an auctioneer at times.

Elmer was a member of the Benalto Baptist Church from its start, teaching Sunday School for many years. He helped with the Benalto fair and served as a director of the Medicine Valley livestock pool for two terms. He helped organize the Sylvan Rural Electrification Association and served as secretary-treasurer for over 25 years, resigning May 1, 1976 at which time he received a silver tray suitably engraved. Elmer and Clara had two daughters, Doris and Jean. They got their schooling at the nearby Kuusamo School and some high school at Benalto.

Doris became a teacher and taught at the Centerville school for four years. She later married Meredith Moorhouse and now lives in Duncan, British Columbia. They have three daughters. **Jean**, went through for a nurse, nursing in Edmonton and Red Deer until her marriage to Ted Clark. They now reside at Vermilion, Alberta, and have two daughters and two sons.

THOMAS BURGESS MILLAR — by Charles Millar

The first cheese factory in Alberta was built by T. B. Millar in 1906 in the Jones Valley area. In Burnt Lake he built his first operative cheese factory in 1907. And from here he extended and enlarged his field of operation. The Eckville factory was built in 1908.

One, west of Sylvan Lake on Highway 11, southwest corner of section 2-39-2-5 in the Kuusamo district, was built in 1909. This was followed in 1911 by centres at Evarts and Pitcox. The name "Pitcox" disappeared shortly after, and is now known as Hespero. At Evarts, Mr. Millar rented the government creamery where both cheese and butter were made. The rather short distances between neighboring factories was so designed that milk could readily be delivered by using a pair of ponies and a democrat, or, in occasional cases, by using a pony paired with an ox.

Because he wanted to have his home more central to the area of operations, in 1910 Mr. Millar moved his family and home to the Kuusamo factory site west of Sylvan Lake. He also purchased and farmed SW 1-39-2-5. Joseph Huerlimann, a specially trained cheesemaker, who had homesteaded a mile east of the Millar residence, was his first assistant. He hoped to get another kind of cheese on the market, namely Swiss cheese. However, the cattle feed in this area wasn't suitable for producing this variety. The doors of the Kuusamo cheese factory were closed during the First World War but the family continued to live there.

Throughout their lives both Mr. and Mrs. Millar were sincere and dedicated adherents of the church. Mr. Millar could sometimes laughingly refer to himself as an "S-P-G", Scotch, Presbyterian, Grit. He served on various church boards in several different capacities. During his residence in the Kuusamo district he served on

the school board from 1915-1920 inclusive. He helped organize the Mutual Telephone Association, in 1916, and worked tirelessly gathering subscribers and workers in order to get telephones.

T. B. Millar died on November 19, 1921. Mrs. Millar outlived her husband by 11 years. Up to within a year of her death, on December 7, 1932, she continued to teach school, grateful for the work that she loved with which to occupy herself. She taught at Kuusamo for nine years serving as an elementary teacher and as principal of the two-roomed rural school. Being artistic and musical, she brought culture into the lives of both young and old at a time when it was needed. Her ex-pupils and friends remember the excellent concerts given by the Kuusamo school children, either at the school or at the Elspeth Hall. These were often attended by visitors from other areas many times by the school inspectors. The vocal or piano solos or duets, quartettes, choruses, recitations, monologues, plays, operettas, given by the well-trained pupils would have competed well at the present day Music Festivals. Mrs. Millar did knitting, crocheting, tatting, embroidery, and oil painting of pictures as well as on china. These talents were shared with her pupils. She was a music teacher and taught from the Toronto Conservatory of Music Board. Both Mr. and Mrs. Millar are buried in the Red Deer cemetery.

Charles Millar was married to Elizabeth Sarah Martin on March 29, 1923. She passed away on August 1, 1924. On September 3, 1927, Charles married Doris Botham. They have three daughters and two sons. Charles joined the army in April, 1942, going overseas in 1943. He was occupied in army records, doing most of his office work at Aldershot. He achieved the rank of WOE before returning to Calgary in February, 1947. Since leaving the reserve force in 1962, he worked with the parks administration in Banff. He is retired, residing at Canmore.

James Millar worked with the survey department of the Hudson's Bay Marland Oil and its successor, the Hudson's Bay Oil and Gas Co. Ltd., from 1926 until it became inactive in 1934. Following the Leduc discovery, the company was reactivated. James returned to seismic work, in a supervisory capacity, in 1950. Out of a few hundred employees he was employee number eight. He, and his wife, the former Bessie Gilliland, (taught at Kuusamo), lived in Calgary. They had one daughter and two sons. Bessie still resides there. **Marian**, Mrs. John McKenzie, attended school at Kuusamo and later became a pharmacist. After her husband's death she continues to operate the "Men's Clothing Store" at Drayton Valley, Alberta, where she resides. **James Jr.** also attended school at Kuusamo. He owns and operates a welding shop in Edmonton, Alberta. **Kenny** was born while his parents were living at Kuusamo. He is a salesman for Telex and resides in Calgary, Alberta. **James Sr.** died January 11, 1972 at Calgary. Bessie still owns the quarter of land in Kuusamo farmed by Ray Niemala from Benalto. The cheese factory was torn down and the acreage is now the home site of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Brzak.

More of the T. B. Millar history is recorded under Burnt Lake.

W. B. PARSONS, M.D.

W ½ E ½ 15-39-2-5

My first good look at Kuusamo was some time in the late 30's when my brother MacGregor and I were out duck hunting. We drove down a wooded lane to get the owner's permission to shoot. As we came out from the trees we were struck with the beauty of the place. We were there several times after that and one day we said to Arthur Stenlund, the owner, "If you ever decide to retire, let us know about it. We'd like to have this place."

Nearly twenty years later, in 1955, Arthur appeared in our office. "Did you really mean it?" he asked. We had forgotten, but we hadn't changed our minds. We wasted no time in drawing up the papers and the farm was ours. Ten days later Mr. Porter bought the neighboring Abrahamson property.

Perhaps at first we bought the land as an investment because both of us had cottages on the lake; but soon my wife and I fell in love with the farm. After a year or two we traded with MacGregor for a place we had bought between us on the north side. We've never regretted our action.

At first we just used it as a summer place. Wayne Mattson farmed the land and cut the hay around the house. We were busy down on the beach and in the water scything the large area of rushes. After three years of cutting they were gone, though we have to cut a few stragglars every two or three years. After Wayne died in 1963 Roy Mattson took over the land. By now the hilly part was leached out and not good for grain, so he suggested hay. Because I had more time now and my family could help, I said, "I'll fence it off and use it for pasture."

We did it the hard way; drove more than a mile of fence posts with a mall. I hadn't yet seen a suspension fence but after reading of its advantages, I put that in. Two Texas gates let us get to the house. Then I built my own corral. I rented a motor drill but it broke down on the second hole so, with a hand auger, I drilled out fifty-



W. B. Parsons Family — 1975. David, Marcia, Betty, Nancy, Tom. Dr. and Mrs. Parsons.

eight holes in the clay that later on set like concrete — a good corral. It served its purpose well for the years when I fed steers.

Meanwhile, around the house we established some lawn, and through the years have planted many trees. We moved the vegetable garden and put in some flower beds. Then we made some changes in the house.

In 1974, health problems forced me to give up medical practice, so since then we've spent most of our time on the farm. As my health improved I became more active on the place; not farming, but around the home area, with the gardens, lawns, and trees. We have done all we can to make it a bird sanctuary where all are welcome but the crows, magpies and sparrows.

We know and like our neighbors and find Kuusamo a good place in which to live. To our children this spot has been a joy and I hope that it will be a gathering place for the Parsons clan for along time to come.

The Parsons on the farm are **William Bull**, formerly a physician in Red Deer, and **Margaret Agnes**. William was the son of Dr. Richard Parsons, a physician in Red Deer who was born on a farm near Toronto, and Marcia Ella Bull, daughter of Jersey breeders near Brampton, Ontario. Margaret's father was John A. Smith, of Calgary, a Provincial High School Inspector who was born on a farm near Harriston, Ontario. Her mother was Anna Sinclair, from a farm in Glengarry County, Ontario. Margaret's older sister, Helen, taught at the Burnt Lake School in 1925-26 and boarded at the Mattsons, south of the school.

MR. AND MRS. ALEX PASMA — by Mrs. Ena Kinna

Mr. and Mrs. Alex Pasma and daughter, **Hilda**, resided on SE 36-38-2-5. Some of the first Kuusamo school teachers boarded there. Alex was trustee of the school from 1911-13.

They were the owners of the district's first car — a Model T Ford purchased in Red Deer from dealer Fred Lund. The price was \$475.00 and included a two-hour driver's course.

Mrs. Pasma passed away here and is buried in the Kuusamo Cemetery. Mr. Pasma sold his quarter, left his spacious, two-storey frame house and, with Hilda, returned to the Detroit area, U.S.A.

Kuusamo Cemetery records show that son **Isaac** died December, 1913, aged 29 years.

PASS FAMILY HISTORY — by P. Macgregor Duffield

SW 30-38-1-5

Kaarle Aukusti Bergstedt who was later to change his name to Carl August Pass, was born September 6, 1861, in the Parish of Rantsilan, which was in the province of Kuopion, Finland. At that time Finland was ruled by Russia. A document dated 1891 states that Mr. Bergstedt was a free man (Russia being a monarchy had an established fuedal system which indentured serfs), a man of good character, and a Christian. We know little of his background but it can be assumed that his father was also a free man.

Greta Amalia Poykku, who was to become the wife of Aukusti, was born in Rovaniemi, Finland in 1868. She was the daughter of a shoemaker and was attending school in Sweden when her father died as a result of a



Mr. and Mrs. August Pass.

serious cut received while cutting leather. Her family was unable to afford to maintain her in Sweden so she returned home.

In 1880 Aukusti travelled to Michigan, U.S.A. Sometime during his travels he changed his name to Pass. August and Greta were married in Michigan about 1885. They lived for a short time in Port Arthur, Canada, while August worked on the construction of the C.P.R. In 1886 they had their first child, **Ida Amalia**. This daughter was followed by a son **Charles August** born in 1889.

The family returned to Finland in 1891 and immigrated to the United States in 1892, at which time they located in Belt, Montana. While in Belt, August worked in the mines and later became a saloon-keeper. Greta kept a boarding house. Three more children were born to the Pass family while in Belt: **John**, who died as a baby; **William Frances**, born January 7, 1897; **Arvid (Harvey)**, born December 25, 1899. August became a naturalized citizen of the U.S.A. on October 28, 1898. His family retains the document upon which August renounced his allegiance to the Czar of Russia.

In the early spring of 1900 August joined Matt Kaila and Victor Pastobak, and the three men travelled by train to the Canadian North West Territories to look for land to homestead. They left the train at Wetaskiwin and travelled on foot from there in search of an area which offered fresh water, plenty of tree cover and a source of fish. They found what they were looking for three miles southwest of Sylvan Lake, and returned to Montana to collect their families.

The land was covered with poplar and spruce so, as it was cleared, the felled trees were used to construct the family's home. This was a two-room log house with a steeply pitched roof which provided an attic for the children to sleep in. On December 25 of that year (1900) another son **Mikka** was born. Mikka died of diphtheria in 1904. He is buried in the old Kuusamo Cemetery.

From records still retained we see that the family purchased a wagon in 1900 for the sum of \$75.00; a sleigh in 1901 for \$29.00. These first years on the farm were spent clearing land and building up the farmstead. A number of log buildings were constructed including a barn, chicken house, and of course, a sauna. There was a

spring below the house which was used to cool cream and store fresh food. Vegetables were preserved by canning; meat and fish by canning, salting and drying. Soap was made at home. All the family's socks, mittens and scarves were knitted by Greta. The family's clothes were made at home, and the scraps left over from sewing were woven into rugs. The farm provided meat, milk, eggs, cream for butter, grain for milling into flour, soap made from tallow and lye water leached from ashes. There was a multitude of wild berry bushes around the farm which provided the fruit for preserves.

1904 was a big year as August became a naturalized Canadian citizen, the family had a daughter **Hilja (Lillian) Edith** who was born in March, and application was made for title to the homestead. This title was received from the Judicial Court of the Territory of Northern Alberta in January, 1905. Another daughter, **Hulda**, was born in November, 1905.

In 1906 a cream separator was purchased for \$100.00, and Charlie, who was a "prodigal son", obtained a registered trotting-horse named Kingo. Charlie owned the horse for several years and probably lost money on him.

In the spring of 1907 the family's first born child, Ida Amalia, having been married to a livery barn owner in Red Deer, died giving birth. November of that year saw another daughter born to the Pass family. This child was named **Ida Amalia** in memory of their first-born.

With the Christmas of 1913 coming on, the girls decided to decorate; and while their parents and older brothers were out of the house, they placed candles in the windows. The candles were lit and ignited the curtains throwing the children into a panic. Fortunately Charlie was sick in bed in the next room and he arose to smother the fire.

The girls and their mother looked after the milk cows and chickens. Income from this task was spent on groceries and was the source of "pin money" for the children and their mother. Cotton material was about 15¢ a yard at this time.

From farm records we note that a binder was purchased in 1912 for the sum of \$145.00, a plow and disc harrow for \$65.00 and a stubble plow and wagon for \$85.00.

Most of the income from the farm was put back into it and we see that in 1914 a democrat was purchased for \$105.00; in 1915 a seed drill for \$110.00; in 1917 a cultivator for \$14.00 and that same year the first family car, a Ford Touring car was obtained for \$500.00.

Bill went to war early in 1918 and was sent overseas on a troopship. As a result of his voyage over and back he vowed never to set foot on a ship again. He served with the 21st Alberta Reserve Battalion and was discharged in May, 1919.

The first record of income tax being filed was in 1919. It shows that Bill and Harvey each received \$250.00 for a year's work on the farm. The family owned a half section of land at this time and they paid property tax of \$66.04. Records indicate they sold 442 bushels of wheat for \$828.15, and 12 head of Hereford cattle for \$920.00. They were required to report all farm produce which they consumed during the year including milk, meat, eggs, butter, grain and vegetables. This totalled \$200.00.

Bill was a blacksmith and at some point built a log blacksmith shop on the farm. In it he shaped plowshares; forge welded; shod horses; and repaired all manner of implements. His services were in demand by surrounding farmers and for a time he maintained some road equipment for the municipality. Bill's blacksmith shop, equipped just as it was, has been restored and is located in the Historical Village in Innisfail.

Lillian Pass married Clifford Dingman in 1921. They homesteaded in the Peace River country following their marriage.

A new home was built on the farm in 1922. This house was pre-cut in Vancouver and cost \$1,384.00 including freight of \$282.53 plus government tax of \$33.06 delivered to Sylvan Lake. This was the cost of material for a two-storey three-bedroom home with kitchen, dining room, living room and bathroom. There was a full width front porch and the family found that there was enough material left over to build a back porch as well. The finished cost of the house including labor was under \$5,000.00. A thirty-two-volt Delco power plant was installed about 1932. This supplied light to the house and a new horse barn which had recently been built.

Farming was done totally with horses, and a custom steam threshing outfit was hired each fall. In 1926 the Pass farm acquired its own Massey-Harris tractor and a Rumely separator. Tax records for the year 1929 advise that the Pass Brothers threshed for B. C. Learned, O. Hillman, N. G. Eisenhauer, E. Leeti, Matt Kaila, Kinnunen and Staudinger. The details of the work for Staudinger and Hillman were: 600 bushels wheat at a rate of 10¢ for a total of \$60.00; and 150 bushels barley at a rate of 8¢ for a total of \$12.00.

August passed away in October, 1936, aged 75 years. Greta passed away February, 1945, aged 77 years and was buried in Kuusamo Cemetery with August.

Ida married Percy Duffield in 1941. They lived in Sylvan Lake where Percy had a real estate, insurance, and auctioneering business and was the funeral director. He was also mayor for several years.

Charlie, Bill and Harvey attended school at Kuusamo. Charles August died in April, 1959, aged 70 years. Harvey died in November, 1973, aged 73, and William died February, 1974, at the age of 77. They are buried in the Kuusamo Cemetery.

Hulda lives in Victoria, British Columbia. Lillian resides in Ft. St. John, British Columbia. Ida makes her home in Innisfail, Alberta.

The farm remains within the family, now owned by Ida's son, P. Macgregor Duffield. Some of the equipment from the farm is starting a second life as it has been purchased by L. (Butch) Hillman who is homesteading with it near Vanderhoof, British Columbia.

VICTOR PASTOBAK — by Mrs. Ena Kinna

Victor Pastobak was born at Sainajoki Vaasanlaani, Finland, on August 7, 1862, and in order to avoid being drafted into the army, he immigrated to the United States when he was about 18 years of age, finding employment in the copper mines at Hancock and Calumet, Michigan. Later he worked on construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway grade from Ontario to Winnipeg, where he was offered a team of oxen if he

would file on a homestead in Manitoba. He preferred however to go back to the copper mines.

It was there in the Crystal Falls Township in 1890 that he met Hanna Peltoniemi, who had left Evijarvi, Finland, to come out to America in May of that year, and they were married in Mastodon, Crystal Falls Township on September 20, 1890. After living only one year in Hancock, they moved to Rock Springs, Wyoming, in 1891, and one year later, they moved to Belt, Montana, where Victor went to work in the coal mines. A large number of Finnish families lived at Belt and it was their home for eight years.

In the spring of 1900, Mr. Pastobak, with two friends, A. Pass and Matt Kaila, left Belt for the Northwest Territories in Canada to look for land to settle on. Arriving in Calgary, they travelled north to Wetaskiwin on the narrow gauge Canadian Pacific Railway. Looking over the country there, they were not satisfied, as the country was too open. They wanted land with more bush on it. Coming back to Red Deer they walked to Snake (Sylvan) Lake and looked over the land in the district. Mr. Pastobak's choice was a homestead two miles west of the present Sylvan Lake post office. He returned in a few days to Belt and immediately brought his family to Canada. Travel was slow in those days and the layover, when they had to change trains, was long and tiresome. Arriving in Red Deer, they stayed in a building on the former site of Bert's Cold Storage plant on Ross Street, until a team and wagon was secured to take them the rest of the way. A previous flood had washed away the traffic bridge across the Red Deer River, and the only way they could cross was to ford the wagon and team, and load their goods on hand cars and push them across the C.P.R. bridge. Mrs. Pastobak and the children walked across the bridge.

There were no graded roads in those days, just trails winding through the trees and around the sloughs. The Pastobak family went to the home of the Wetelainen family, and lived in a one-room log house near the Pastobak homestead. Mr. and Mrs. Pastobak and their four children stayed with Mr. and Mrs. Wetelainen and their four children until the Pastobak one-room house was built. The house was made of logs with a sod roof. Everything in it was from the bush, except the floor, stove, table and the two windows. The homestead house was built near an old Indian camp-ground. Willow trees stuck in the ground and bent over, making frames which the Indians covered with canvas and hides for sleeping places, were still there, and many prairie chicken snares were found. An Indian battleground appears to have been nearby, as the son, Ed, found many fine arrow heads around the place. He gave them all away to admirers of Indian craftsmanship.

There was a spring of clear cold water on the hillside and it was used by the Pastobak family for many years before it went dry. An Indian trail was near the house and the first years that the Pastobaks lived there, great bands of Indians passed on their way to and from Snake Lake. The old trail used by the early settlers going west, crossed the southwest corner of the homestead. Many kinds of teams and rigs went by — horses, oxen and sometimes a cow and a horse made up the team pulling a wagon. The trees were dense around the house, and Mrs. Pastobak often said if she wanted to see out she had to look up at the sky.

One night in the early fall after the house was built, Mr. Pastobak wakened with a toothache. The next morning, he set out to walk to Red Deer to have the tooth pulled. Soon after he left, it started to rain, turning to heavy snow. Back at the homestead the roof began to leak. Mrs. Pastobak had brought lovely sheets to the pioneer home. She draped them under the poles of the roof, trying to get the water to run down the walls, but it did not work, and the only dry place the children could find was to huddle under the table that had oilcloth on top of it. When Mr. Pastobak returned from Red Deer, he hauled boards and laid them over the sod and the roof never leaked again.

One horse and two cows were bought the first year. Mrs. Pastobak churned the cream, made butter and traded it to the store-keepers in Red Deer for groceries. Only on Sunday could the family have butter on their bread. Ed Pastobak says he still likes butter as well as when he was a small boy, and that there is no margarine in their home now, but always plenty of butter. Mrs. Pastobak, like so many pioneer mothers, conjured meals out of practically nothing, but the temporary credit obtained from the Tom Gaetz and W. E. Lord stores at Red Deer bridged many emergencies.

During the winter of 1900, Mr. Pastobak stayed home and built a house for Arvi Leeti, a new settler. During subsequent winters, he worked at the brickyard in Red Deer for 75 cents a day. He worked in the coal mines in the Crow's Nest Pass one winter and one night while there, he dreamed that the house back home caught fire and one of the cows had a new black calf, which proved to be true. The children, while the mother was milking, saw the roof burning. They put the fire out, but in the night it started up again. Mrs. Pastobak walked across the fields to Matt Kaila, who came to the homestead and put the fire out, and spent the rest of the night with the frightened family.

Mr. Pastobak dreamed long before a railroad was thought of, that one would some day cross the land, and his dream came true. Red Deer was the nearest post office. There was no free delivery in those days. The settlers put a big box on a post three miles west of the lake. Anyone going to Red Deer brought mail for the whole district, put it into the box, and each family sorted out their own.

The chief food was rabbits, fish, partridge and prairie chicken. There were plenty of blueberries and wild raspberries and enough vegetables were grown to last from one season to the next. Tobacco was bought in the long leaf and cut by hand.

The social life of the Finnish people was very nice. They visited each other often, putting the children in the wagon, and the whole family visited their friends. The annual event on those days celebrated by the Finnish settlers was their midsummer picnic, held on St. John's Day, June 24, at the Young People's Hall near Eckville.

A school was started at Kuusamo in 1903 and young Ed was one of the first janitors, receiving eight dollars for the year, which went to pay the school tax of that amount on his father's quarter-section.

In 1904, the wife of a neighbor was seriously ill. It was rainy and the roads were impassable. Those having horses knew they could never pull a wagon to Red Deer, so Mr. Pastobak took his team of oxen. It took a long day to make the trip, and although the lady suffered

much, she never complained. When the hospital was reached, the attending physician, Dr. Richard Parsons, informed them that an operation was necessary.

Mr. Pastobak served as school trustee at Sylvan Lake for a number of years and took an active part in starting the Kuusamo cemetery. He died on September 7, 1938, at the age of 74. Mrs. Pastobak with her sons continued to live on the homestead, on which a new house had been built in 1912. She died on August 4, 1954, at Rimbey hospital at the age of 84, being at that time the oldest living Finnish settler in the district. Prior to that, she had never been ill in a hospital in her life. Both Mr. and Mrs. Pastobak are buried in the Kuusamo cemetery.

Mr. and Mrs. Pastobak had a family of eight children: four daughters and four sons. Of the daughters, **Ida**, Mrs. McIntyre, died in Sedro Wooley, Washington, in 1929; **Hilda**, Mrs. Charles Houghton, lives in Winfield, British Columbia; **Hilma**, died in Vancouver in 1968; and **Ina** lives at Sylvan Lake. Of the sons, **Edward**, born at Belt, Montana, on November 19, 1892, is well known as a big game hunter, going almost every fall since 1919 to the west country to hunt. He served on the executive of the Provincial Fish and Game Association. **Victor**, born at Belt, Montana, on November 26, 1895, served overseas in the First World War with the 21st Alberta Reserve Battalion. **Vaino** was born at Belt, Montana, on March 5, 1899 and **Elmer** was born on the homestead in June 1905.

The Pastobaks sold their three quarters. They now live in retirement at Sylvan Lake.

AUGUST PITKANEN — by Mrs. Wayne Pitkanen

Peter August Pitkanen was born in Kuopio, Finland, in 1866. He was a brick layer by trade. Anna Pitkanen was born in Vippuri, Finland in May of 1870. They were married in Finland. August, Selma, Elsie and Emil were born in Finland. William (Bill) and Hilia were born in the United States, and Wayne, Ailie, Walter, Margie and Arne were born in Alberta in the Kuusamo district where they attended school. Mr. and Mrs. Pitkanen lived in Burban, Wyoming, and Mullen, Idaho, before coming to the Kuusamo district. Mr. Pitkanen came first and bought the land and a year later, in 1904, brought the family to the farm. There was a small shack in the south-west corner of the land where the family lived until a large log house was constructed on the south-east corner



Aug. Pitkanen's large three storey log house built about 1910.

of the land. Mr. Soderlund built the house all by himself, hewed the green logs, and even carried them up to the third floor. It was about 30 feet square. They cleaned and broke the land, did mixed farming and raised horses. Two more quarters were bought, where Emil and Bill farmed.

Mr. Pitkanen passed away in 1921. Mrs. Pitkanen lived on the farm with some of the family until her passing in August, 1944. Mrs. Pitkanen also raised a grandson, **Ray Hirvonen**. **Carl August**, born in 1894, passed away in 1918, during the flu epidemic. A son, **Arne Victor**, passed away in 1923. **Selma** was born in 1896. She married Myles Scown in 1922 and now resides in Eckville. **Elsie Mathilda** was born in 1898. She married Jack O'Reilly in Ontario in 1925. They now live at Sarnia, Ontario. **Emil George** was born in 1900 and married Irene Kojola in 1935. They lived on the farm until moving to Eckville. They had three children: Elsie, Velma and Clifford. Elsie married Bill Wittney and lived in the west country. Velma married Glen Greeman and lives in British Columbia. Clifford married June Reynolds (Vallie) and have one child. They live in Eckville, where Clifford runs a sports and clothing store. They all attended school at Kuusamo, Benalto and Eckville schools. Emil lived in Eckville until his passing in 1966. Irene passed away in 1968. **William (Bill)** was born in 1902 at Burban, Wyoming. He lived on the farm and part time at the mines in East Coulee. He married Anna Antila in 1935. They had one son, Edward. Bill passed away in April 1963. **Hilia Marie** was born in Mullen, Idaho, in 1904. She married Wm. Lowry in 1924 and lived in East Coulee, Drumheller, and later in the New Hill district. They moved to Summerland, British Columbia. They have four children, Emily (Mrs. Vern Stinn), Alice, Bobby and Arne. **Wayne Oscar** was born in 1906 and married Viona Hietala in 1927. Viona attended Melita School. They bought the quarter across from the old home place, where they now live. Wayne worked at the mines in East Coulee at first, where the family moved for the winter, and back to the farm in the summer. They have three sons. Wayne Robert attended school at Kuusamo, Benalto and Red Deer, and took education in Edmonton. Don attended school at Kuusamo and Benalto, and attended Bible School for four years in Edmonton. He is married and has four children and lives in St. Louis, Missouri. Garry attended school at Kuusamo, Benalto, Eckville, and the Tech. in Calgary. Garry married Isobelle Hunter of Carstairs. They have two children. **Ailie** was born in 1909 and married John Yopek of Drumheller in 1935. Later they moved to Leduc and Edmonton. They had one daughter, Linda. Ailie passed away in May, 1976. John passed away in the early sixties. **Walter John** was born in 1910. He married Alice Raunio and lived on the farm until moving to Vancouver. They have a daughter, Joyce. Alice passed away in 1963. **Alma Margie** was born in 1917. She married Ralph Kangas. She passed away in Vancouver in 1953.

ISAAC PORTTIN AND MATT PORTTIN — by Mrs. Ena Kinna

To this day, Isaac Porttin's blacksmith shop stands on homestead NW 36-38-2-5. Even some of the equipment remains, a reminder of days when horses were shod; much land was broken; roads and cellars were made by



Top — Isaac Porttin; Bottom — Matt Porttin family. L. to R. — Eino, Matt, Wilfred, Helmi, Edna, Helvi and Aro.

horse-drawn machines called scrapers. Isaac Porttin, a blacksmith and carpenter by trade, was born in Finland in 1860. His wife, Mary (nee Puukila), was born in Finland in 1857. They emigrated to the United States about 1886, leaving behind a son, **Matt**, who joined them in 1900. In 1901, the family travelled by train to Red Deer, then settled in the Snake Lake area. Matt proved the quarter, NE 36-38-2-5. For several years, father and son farmed in the summer and mined during the winter, the former in British Columbia, and the latter in Canmore. Contractor J. W. W. Slack had Isaac build the district's first and only school, namely Kuusamo. Mrs. Isaac Porttin died in 1907, and is buried in the first Kuusamo Cemetery located on NW 24-38-2-5. In 1921, Isaac returned to Finland. He died in 1943.

MATT PORTTIN, born December 29, 1882 at Lapua, Vassanlaani, Finland, was married to Helmi Maria Mackie in 1906. Helmi was born at Kauhava, Finland, on August 30, 1887. They lived on their farm until 1910 at which time they moved to reside with his father Isaac.

The settlers in the community combined their efforts and built winding trails from home to home. These were very special roads — they had names. "Follow this Porttin road to Wolttis, then take the Woltti road to Woimas, and the Woima road will lead you to the Salonens." A few short stretches of these poplar bordered trails can still be seen today, and they are beautiful. The nearest

town and post office was Red Deer, a good 25 miles drive by way of Burnt Lake. As horses were the only means of transportation, a trip in to Red Deer was an overnight affair. Food and blankets for both passengers and horses had to be packed along. The Finnish community had one mail box in Red Deer, namely Box A. Another box stood at Riekkii's corner, half a mile south of the Porttin home. If anyone happened to go to the city, he brought Box A and deposited it in the rural box. Each family in turn would pick up its mail there. Matt was a trustee of the Kuusamo School for 12 years. He was also a director of the Sylvan Lake Co-operative Association for two years.

Helmi had what it takes to be a good pioneer wife and mother. Her fingers were never idle. To her it was a challenge to crochet or knit articles without instructions, studying pictures and illustrations in magazines or creating designs of her own besides the usual sewing. They lived in retirement in Sylvan Lake for nine years.

Mrs. Porttin died on February 26, 1958, and is buried in the Kuusamo Cemetery. Matt still enjoys reasonably good health and resides in Sylvan Lake. Mr. and Mrs. Porttin raised a family of five. **Wilfred**, married Eileen Koski, and farmed the father's homestead. He died March 23, 1969. **Edna**, married Elmer Laitinen of Salmon Arm, British Columbia. They have a son and a daughter and are living in Kamloops, British Columbia. **Helvie**, widow of Wayne Mattson, is now Mrs. Parker. She has a son and a daughter. **Eino**, married Mirium Saari. They have two sons, and presently live on the Isaac Porttin's homestead. A brother, **Aro**, died July 2, 1927.

WILFRED PORTTIN — by Eileen Porttin

Wilfred Severe Porttin was born October 1, 1908, the eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Matt Porttin of the Kuusamo district. He attended Kuusamo school and stayed on the family farm until 1939. He was interested in all sports, mainly baseball, hockey, and later curling.

On September 9, 1939, he married Eileen Ellen Koski of the Bentley area and they moved to Vancouver. While there he was employed first in a saw mill, then as a reamer in the ship yards. In 1947 they returned to the Kuusamo district and started farming on 36-38-2-5. He also worked at carpentry. For quite a few years they raised chickens, selling hatching eggs.

In the fall of 1968 Wilfred became seriously ill and was hospitalized for three months. He then returned home but never recovered his health, and passed away March 23, 1969. He is buried in the Kuusamo Cemetery. His widow still lives on the farm.

EINO PORTTIN — by Miriam Porttin

November 30, 1916, Eino was born at Sylvan Lake. On August 15, 1951, he married Miriam Saari, who was born January 19, 1932. They lived on his grandfather's homestead, NW 36-38-2-5, where Eino farmed and also did carpentering until 1965 when they moved to Red Deer.

Eino worked for four years at Merit Stores, and Miriam worked at Parsons Clinic. In 1969 Eino and his family moved back to the farm. He was employed by the Eckville Co-op Association, and is now managing the Hardware Department. His wife, Miriam, has been cashiering at Cobb's Grocery Ltd. in Sylvan Lake for several years, besides taking care of the family home.



Eino Porttin family. Wesley, Eino, Gary and Miriam.

Wesley, born May 24, 1952, has been working in oil exploration in the Arctic for the past three years. **Gary**, born December 9, 1959, is taking his grade 12 in Sylvan Lake and working part-time in Cobb's Ltd.

THE PRENTICE FAMILY — by Mrs. Thelma Miller

My father, Lawrence Prentice, came to Red Deer from Rockford, Illinois, U.S.A., with his parents in 1908, living there until his twenty-first year. After his marriage to the former Dorothy Cooper of Mirror, he followed a number of jobs returning to work his father's farm at Burnt Lake in the spring of 1940. He moved the family west of Sylvan Lake to the B. C. Learned farm in



Lawrence Prentice Family — 1947. Standing — Lawrence and Dorothy. T. to B. — L. to R. — Milton, Fern, Lloyd, Thelma, baby Shirley and May.

the Kuusamo district in April, 1943. Mr. Learned sold the farm to Mr. Harry Bennett in the fall of 1945, so, in October of that year, father moved the family to Manitoba, returning to the central Alberta area thirteen years later.

Mother passed away in Red Deer, December, 1963. In July of 1973, father married Mrs. Dorothy Wright and they reside at Louis Creek, British Columbia.

As I recall, those were hard years as the war created a shortage of man power and machinery repairs for the farmers, not to mention the added inconvenience created by the rationing of gas and tires. They were also good years as the demand for pork, lamb, and wool was high. While prices were good, father concentrated his farming efforts around pigs and sheep.

There were six of us children: **Milton**, the eldest, passed away at Sylvan Lake March 1958; **May**, lives at Taber, Alberta, and has three sons and a daughter; **Fern** lives at Quesnel, British Columbia, and has four sons and three daughters; **Lloyd**, at Kamloops, British Columbia, has three sons; **Shirley**, who was born in Manitoba, has three sons and is living at Condor. **Thelma**, the eldest daughter, has two sons and five daughters, and is also living at Condor, Alberta.

S. A. RIEKKI FAMILY — by Mrs. Guy Fitch

Sakri Alfred Riekkı emigrated to the U.S.A. about 1890 from Pudasjarvi, district of Oulu, Finland. He left because he was 21 years of age and didn't wish to be enlisted into compulsory army training. Father farmed for a time in North Dakota, but drought drove him west to Red Lodge, Montana, where he worked in a coal mine. It was here he met and married Tilda Maria Sylvasti from Sievi, district of Oulu, Finland. Mother had some unpleasant experience having been left an orphan in Finland at the age of seven years, and raised without a chance of schooling; so had to learn to read and write while working long hours in homes, with very little remuneration. Her only brother had emigrated to the U.S.A., and when Mother was 17 years of age, he sent for her to join him in Duluth, Minnesota. He died soon after, and Mother had to learn the English language working as a domestic until she married Father in July, 1896. A year later, while at Red Lodge, their first child, Aini, was born on June 16, 1897. They learned that prospects were better at Belt, Montana, so moved there and Father continued to work in a coal mine. A second daughter, Helia, was born on September 23, 1898, and a son Francis Alfred (Fred) entered the picture on March 8, 1900.

Witnessing a coal-mining accident in which Father lost a brother, leaving behind a wife and two small children, made him wish he could find another occupation. This, along with the big ads of the boom in Canada, prompted him to go to Red Deer, Northwest Territories. In the early fall of 1900, Father filed on a homestead on the SW 36-38-2-5, then returned to Belt and worked in the mine until the spring of 1901. In April he returned to the homestead and built a small one-room log house, which had rails covered with sod for a roof, two windows and a homemade door. Later, rough board additions were built on each end of the log house. One was used as a porch and the other as a bedroom. Furniture was mostly homemade. One bed was so arranged that it could be



Riekk Family — 1922. Mrs. Riekk, Helia, Maimie, Esther, Aini, Jennie, Mr. Riekk, Sadie in front. Fred at the top.

upended against the wall during the day for more floor space. Hay or straw ticks were placed on the floor at nights and stacked for the day. The chairs were large blocks of wood upended, or else split in half with legs made of small poplars. The table was homemade from unplanned lumber, as also were the shelves for the dishes, and the bare floor.

The summer of 1901, Mother and the three children, along with other Finnish settlers, came on an immigrants train to Red Deer, bringing with them a few household effects. They were taken to the homestead in carts and

wagons pulled with horses or oxen. Father built a small log barn with a rail roof covered with grass that he and Mother cut with a scythe and carried to the barn. As soon as possible Father built a Sauna from logs saved from clearing the land. It had a sod roof and the floor was of logs, hewed flat. The sauna was heated by a wood burning stove made of rocks and had a pipe for a chimney. The temperature could be raised by steam, created when cold water was thrown on the hot rocks. This had to be done very carefully to avoid getting burned by the steam or the heated water. It may be interesting to know that the name "Sauna" for a steam bath is Finnish and in that language is pronounced as sow'(a female pig) na, instead of saw/na.

There was little, if any, money in the area so the families traded work, shared horses and implements. Father went to work in the winter in mines at Canmore or Bankhead. Mother was left at home to care for the children and the livestock. The shallow hand-dug well went dry in the winter so the stock had to be driven through thick forest to water at the slough three-quarters of a mile away, and the ice was cut with an axe for watering holes. Snow was melted into water for household purposes and drinking water was carried from neighbor's. Later all problems were solved when the well was deepened.

There were no surveyed roads so Indian trails were followed until they joined the Burnt Lake Trail to Red Deer, the nearest town.

In 1903, Father had a chance to buy the adjoining land to the south, at \$3.00 an acre, but they were not sure they wanted to stay here so he turned it down. This land was later bought by Dan Weber, a bachelor from U.S.A. Later Father bought the quarter, NE 36-38-3-5, from Henry Samuelson near Benalto, recently owned by Swan Anderson. For a while it was a toss-up as to which place would become the permanent home site, but the one nearer to Sylvan Lake or to the market at Red Deer was the most favorable. In 1909 Father sold the Melita quarter to Peter Niskanen.

Father helped to organize and build the Kuusamo school just a mile south of home. Like so many of the Finnish settlers, he had a good education in Finland, more than equivalent to our grade twelve, but his command of English was limited and prevented him from acting as a secretary-treasurer or chairman. However, with his previous education combined with his self-taught English, he could manage his personal business and even could be of help to some of his neighbors.

Like that of all pioneer women, Mother's life was hard but she was happy to have a home and a family of her own to love and to be loved. All of her children who were born in Alberta namely: Esther, Jennie, Maimie and Sadie, were born at home with the care of a midwife. Most of the Finnish pioneer housewives could neither speak nor read English, neither did they have cookbooks. Mother, while working as a domestic in homes in Finland and U.S.A., learned the cuisine and baking of both countries. These she shared with others as was the custom in those early days. Fresh fish from the lake was baked, or fried, either in a pan or held with a toasting fork over red hot coals in the stove; it was also made into tempting and nourishing casseroles or soups. Some were cleaned and kept in hand-dug ice pits or were salt cured in crocks.

Wild berries were canned in various types of household bottles, sealed with corks dipped in wax.

Toys were homemade. Toy horses, cattle, dogs, etc., for the farmyard set, Aini cut free-handed from Royal Crown soap boxes; she also made the sleighs, wagon boxes, barn, house and furniture. The people were characters cut from the catalogues and had extra garments the same as the paper dolls that we now buy. Father carved reindeer from small poplars. Many rag dolls were made to be cuddled.

With Mother and six girls it could easily appear that the housework was a snap. Since there was only the one boy, Fred, in the family, the girls had to be both "Toms and Marys", working indoors and outside. Aini started sewing at a very early age and with six girls in the family to practice on, she became an expert seamstress. She altered or made, with or without patterns, dresses, coats, shirts and lingerie; she also sewed household linens from flour sacks, which were opened and bleached snowy white by soaking and washing the print off and then boiling them in a soapy lye water. Then about March these were spread on clean snow in a sunny spot to bleach the remaining dye or print. After two weeks or so they were again washed, boiled, rinsed, dried and ironed. With or without embroidery or starch they were made into curtains, table linens, pillow cases, aprons, scarves, lingerie and sheets. To add beauty to some articles, Helia and Esther would crochet or tat edgings. Ladies' hats were very much in style and Aini would buy milliner's buckram, velvet or satin and ribbon to make them.

Father was instrumental in the improvement of breeding stock, that is, Shorthorn cattle and Percheron horses. The government supplied registered bulls and stallions, quartered in the district. The herd sire was stationed at home. For several years Mother, Helia and Esther milked eighteen cows by hand and the milk was hauled in 32-gallon cans by team and wagon to the T. B. Millar cheese factory at Kuusamo. The cows, along with neighbor's cattle, ranged the area from one to five miles and Helia did a great deal of walking to bring them home for milking. There was always the fear of mad bulls in the herds. In 1912 Father had Karl Soderlund build a 28' x 32' two storey, seven-room frame house on a rock foundation with cedar siding and shingles. A little later Mr. Hoglund, who was an interior decorator and painter from Finland, painted the exterior creamy white with a brown trim. He mixed his own paints and filled every nail head with putty before covering them with paint. All the woodwork in the interior of the house he hand-sanded, blonded, grained and finished with varnish. Imagine the joy of moving into a new house and having nice new chairs, table, cook stove, heater, dishes, beds, to replace the rough homemade furniture. About two years later the hip-roofed barn was built. The cow-barn was added soon after, with individual stalls and steel stanchions. In 1917 Father bought his first car, a Chevrolet touring, and built a double door garage for it and the nearly-new democrat.

In the year 1918, Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Mackie decided to retire near Sylvan Lake. Father bought the NE 26-38-2-5 from them and a little later a 39-acre parcel adjoining it on the west side.

Father and Mother worked together, clearing land, haying, harvesting and doing chores, but their home was

always open to welcome friends or strangers and also for church services. The youth met there for social events, singsongs, outdoor games and sometimes danced in the barn loft.

In October, 1933, after a short illness, Mother passed away in the General Hospital in Edmonton. Father continued farming until 1935 when he rented the farm to Mr. and Mrs. Weeks, but he, Aini, and Esther, continued to live there. In 1938 he rented it to his son-in-law, Guy Fitch, from Centerville. On April 1, 1940, Esther died and Aini and Father were left alone at home. That same fall Father had a stroke which left him partially paralyzed and at times bedridden so Guy, Jennie, and daughter Marie, moved in with them. Guy continued renting until the fall of 1945 when Father passed away in October. The NE 26-38-2-5 was sold in the spring of 1946 to Mr. Whaley and the home quarter to Mr. Kilpatrick. Aini went to live in Calgary where she passed away in August, 1953. Guy, Jennie and Marie moved back to their own home in Centerville. Mother, Father, Esther and Aini are buried in a family plot in Sylvan Lake, Alberta.

Aini lived at home, except for a period at Edmonton while taking a course in bookkeeping and accounting. She worked at Dr. Bonsell's office in Red Deer and at Thomas Sanatorium in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Helia worked most of the time at home doing chores and farm work. In 1922 she married Harry Laycock, who taught at Kuusamo in 1919 and 1920. Now they live in Calgary. They had six children: Gilbert and family lives in Trail, British Columbia, where he is electronics engineer; Arleigh and family live in Edmonton where he is a professor of Geography at University of Alberta, Robert and family live in Penticton, British Columbia, where he is a deisel-engineer; Ross and family lived in Calgary where he was an oilman and contractor. He has passed away; Doris, Mrs. Winch and family, live in Calgary; Deanna, Mrs. Downton, and family live in Calgary.

Fred married Lempi Woima in 1919. He was a barber in Sylvan Lake and in U.S.A. Fred played the violin and also played a clarinet in Hazelwood's Band at Sylvan Lake. He died in 1928 in Denver, Colorado, where he is buried.

Esther was born August 12, 1902, lived at home, was a farmerette and chauffeur for many years. She did beautiful tatting and knitting which she sold.

Jennie was born August 3, 1908, married Guy Fitch in 1934. They have one daughter, Marie, now Mrs. Geo. Johanson, who teaches in Sylvan Lake. Jennie wished to be a press secretary but this was frowned upon by Father and Mother. She did enjoy, for many years, acting as secretary for school or community clubs and for the different departments in the church.

Maimie was born January 9, 1911, married E. Ruoho in Vancouver, British Columbia, in 1944, but is now a widow and lives in a Senior Citizens Lodge. She has three daughters. Maimie had a beautiful soprano voice and was offered a scholarship to take lessons in Edmonton but the folks decided she was too young to leave home. She sang solos at concerts and at church.

Sadie was born October 12, 1912, and married Walter Bylund in 1933. She became a typewriter mechanic during World War II and is still in Edmonton

hoping to retire in 1977. She has one daughter, Mrs. Evelyn Boyd in Calgary. Sadie studied piano from Mrs. T. B. Millar for several years and played for singsongs, church services, choirs and school concerts.

Father and Mother always hoped that the home site would be well looked after when they were gone. Their wish has been granted by the present owners, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Severtson.

JOHN AND JACK ROPSFELT — by Mrs. Ena Kinna

Mr. and Mrs. John Ropsfelt with two children, **Saima** and **Jack**, left Finland in 1901 and came to Canada where John found work in Fernie, British Columbia, where construction of the Crow's Nest line of the C.P.R. was in progress. While in Fernie, the Ropsfelts became acquainted with Henry Salonen, who had a homestead in the Kuusamo district, and spoke proudly of all the possibilities on his farm. In 1901, the Ropsfelts came to their homestead six miles west of Sylvan Lake, where they stayed with the Salonens until their own house was ready for occupancy. This house was twelve by fourteen, made of log, and chinked with moss. The house had windows bought in Red Deer, a homemade door, homemade furniture and the mattresses filled with hay. That spring, a garden was spaded by hand and potatoes and vegetables planted. The garden was most successful in the new virgin soil. Water was everywhere. A well was dug only six feet deep and was sufficient for many years. A barn was then constructed, with a pole roof covered with hay, just big enough for a cow and a calf. Lack of money meant Mr. Ropsfelt had to go back to work every winter while the family carried on at home. Visitors were a welcome and rare thing. A post office was opened in Evarts in 1903, and anyone from the area would bring the mail for the neighborhood. Groceries were hauled from Red Deer by any settler owning a team and wagon, or in the winter by sleigh. Seven pounds of unroasted coffee could be bought for \$1.00. Indian Head tobacco was a favorite brand, and a one pound bag cost twenty-five cents. Many fish were caught from the lake nearby, and blueberries were a treat, but no one knew how to preserve them for winter.

On January 3, 1914, daughter Saimi married Richard Kangus who was working on a construction crew, building the railroad west from Red Deer. A wedding dance followed in the Elspeth Hall, but came to a silent end when word reached the hall that the bride's father had been badly injured by a runaway team, while going to Evarts for lunches for the dance. John died the following morning, at the age of 43. Mrs. Ropsfelt continued farming with her son Jacob (Jack) until she passed away in the summer of 1930. This early death was only one year after the untimely death of Saimi in 1929.

Jack Ropsfelt married Siiri Holappa from Massachusetts in 1920, living on the family homestead, acquiring two other quarters of land. Jack Ropsfelt was a big game hunter and also fished at Buck Lake. He had in his possession a special fishery license issued to his father, John, resident of Evarts, for the sum of two dollars. It covered fishing in Snake Lake and permitted the use of fifteen fathoms of gill net with at least five inch mesh extension measure, and was signed by Wm. A. Found as Minister of Marine and Fisheries, and counter-

signed by Peter Gunn, Inspector of Fisheries at Lac Ste. Anne, on July, 1911. Across the license was a notation "Please put number on stake". Mr. Jack Ropsfelt died on September 16, 1955, and the farm passed on to a son, Oliver. A daughter, **Ellen**, Mrs. Koskinen, lives in Calgary, and they have a girl and a boy. Mrs. Jack Ropsfelt died May 17, 1971, and is buried at Kuusamo.

OLIVER ROPSFELT — by Mrs. Guy Fitch

Oliver was born on the farm October 7, 1920. Aili Stenlund, born August 2, 1919, came from Turku, Finland, to the home of her brother, Arthur Stenlund, in Kuusamo. She had worked in a clothing factory in Finland. After coming to Kuusamo she worked at the Eckville Hospital.

Oliver and Aili were married on March 19, 1954, in Red Deer. A wedding dance was held at the Elspeth Hall, which was, at that time, located across the road from them, on the north side of No. 11 highway. Oliver has his grandfather's school tax notice dated 1904. It was \$4.00 per quarter. Now it is approximately \$180.00.

They have three daughters. **Brenda Margaret**, born October 29, 1955, married Richard Fleetham on May 1, 1975, and they farm at Blueberry Mountain, Alberta. **Ann Maria**, born October 13, 1956, graduated at Sylvan Lake. After a tour of Finland, and other countries, she is presently at home. **Marlene Alice**, born February 13, 1958, is finishing her grade 12 at Sylvan Lake.

SYLVESTER SAHA — by Mrs. Ena Kinna

Sylvester Saha was born at Teuva, Vaasa, Finland on December 31, 1876, and he was married in 1899 to his wife Amanda, who was born at Myrkykyla, Finland, also December 31, 1876. Writing to his brother Sam, who was farming in South Dakota in 1900, Sylvester Saha told of his wish to leave his native Finland. However he needed money and he asked his brother for sufficient funds to pay his way to the United States. It was many weeks before Sylvester heard that Sam had sold his farm in Dakota, and was moving to Canada where homesteads were available. In the spring of 1902, the much looked for letter was received by Sylvester, with a ticket for far away Canada. Sam had already filed on a homestead in the Snake Lake area and was living on it, a quarter section which was later owned by Vern Stinn. When Sylvester arrived in Red Deer, he went to the home of his brother and found that he could homestead the adjoining quarter, which he did. There in the thick bush he built a small one roomed shack. Then he wrote to his wife in Finland, sent money enough to pay for a ticket to Red Deer for herself and their 13 month old daughter **Helmi**. In his letter he asked that his wife bring all the luggage that she could, as everything was needed for the new home. Mrs. Saha came well prepared bringing warm clothes, a spinning wheel, wool carders, a feather mattress, and all their bedding. She was three weeks on the way from Finland to Red Deer, and her fare a special emigrant rate was fifty-five dollars. She changed boats at Liverpool and docked at Quebec, and all the way from Quebec, the trains were overcrowded and poorly ventilated. When Mrs. Saha and little **Helmi** arrived at Red Deer in October, 1902, there was no one to meet them. They went out of the station to look for someone, but could see only one man on the street. Mrs. Saha went to the man showing her husband's address and thinking he

would not understand the Finnish language, she spoke to him in Swedish. He studied the address for a minute, then asked in her own native language "Are you from Finland?" Thus she met a future neighbor, the late Mr. August Halstein, and he arranged for a driver with a team and democrat to drive her to her new home. It was five o'clock when they left Red Deer, and after dark, they came to the home of Alex Staudinger. The driver motioned for her to get out of the democrat but in the conversation, Mrs. Saha understood the words "four miles" and she refused to get out. The driver then took her the rest of the way to her new home, and charged five dollars for making the trip. The first winter was hard, there being a heavy snowfall in November, and Mrs. Saha was lonely and worried, her own consolation being that somewhere around in those woods that encompassed her there were other people in the same position. When the sun was bright, she was happy. It seemed to bring greetings from Finland. When she was disgusted, she would grumble "Why travel to the other side of the world just to face the same climatic conditions as in the old country." Beans with salt pork was their main food because it was cheap and satisfying. Ducks and prairie chicken were plentiful, and a pike now and again was a luxury. Early in the new year 1903, Mr. Saha had an attack of tonsillitis and was very ill. Mrs. Saha nursed him day and night as best she could applying hot cloths to this throat and soaking spruce boughs in water and having him inhale the steam. He was very ill for a week, and far from a doctor. None of the neighbors knew of his illness. It was a lonely vigil for Mrs. Saha and she was frightened and worried when she remembered that there was no cemetery in the district. Many buffalo bones and skulls were found on the Saha homestead, and one human skeleton, stretched on a board platform was found there. The garden and a small field were hailed out in 1903 and 1904. One winter Mr. Saha went to work in the coal mines at Frank. There he almost lost his life, when rock from a cave-in fell directly in front of him, knocking off his miners lamp and scratching his face.

Looking into the past, Mr. Saha says that it was three oxen that put him on his feet. He paid the late Victor Pastobak seventy-five dollars for each of them. They pulled the hand-plow at an amazing speed, the furrows turned easily and the field was plowed in no time, but the driver would be all in. During the fly season, the oxen were hard to control, so the working hours would be from four to ten in the morning, and from four to ten in the evening. To check the speed of the oxen in haying time, Mr. Saha bought a pony to team with an ox. He made many trips to Red Deer and Rocky Mountain House with his yoke of oxen, but after a few years he sold them for what he paid for them — seventy-five dollars each. One sunny day Mrs. Saha decided to venture further into the woods than just to the nearest neighbors. For days she had heard a dog barking in the distance. Carrying little Helmi on her back, she set out to see how far she could go through the bush and she came to the cabin of the late Mr. and Mrs. Gust Hill. It was their dog that she had heard barking.

In June of 1909, the second daughter **Helia**, was born to Mr. and Mrs. Saha, and when she was three years old, Helia broke her arm. A Finnish medical student, Leonard Long was in the community and he set the arm

with splints made from saskatoon bushes and bandaged it with flour sacks. At the same time he pulled a tooth for Mr. Saha, that had been bothering him for some time. In 1914, Mr. Saha built a new house and the family moved from the little log house that was their first home. In 1914, Mr. and Mrs. Saha went to Butte, Montana, to consult a Finnish doctor, and both underwent major operations. They rarely had help during the days of oxen and horses. Mrs. Saha did all of the stooking, and helped with the haying. Both did much heavy work, but they were light on their feet when it came to dancing the old time waltz and the Russian polka, and their graceful dancing is still well remembered. Many will remember the checker tournaments and whist drives where Mr. Saha was hard to beat. He said those games required a good young memory. The Sahas left their homestead in 1933 and bought a quarter two miles west of Sylvan Lake on No. 11 highway. In 1942, they sold all but four acres of that land, on which they built a three roomed cottage and lived in retirement. Although totally blind, Mrs. Saha baked her own bread and did her own housework while Mr. Saha raised a fine garden and enjoyed his new sauna bath.

Mrs. Saha died at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Bill Erkkila on October 4, 1947, at the age of 71 and Mr. Saha died on November 1, 1958 in the Eckville hospital at the age of 82. Both Mr. and Mrs. Saha are buried in the Kuusamo Cemetery.

The eldest daughter Helmi married Ed Nikkola, a farmer in the Benalto district, and following his death in 1945, she married Bill Erkkila. Her daughter **Hazel**, Mrs. W. Prentice, lives in eastern Canada. Helia the second daughter, married Wilho Euren, and she died suddenly in April, 1939, leaving five small children, Mr. and Mrs. Saha raised the two eldest grandsons, **Harold** and **Albert**, while **Eino** remained with his father. Mrs. Nikkola raised the two youngest children, **Leonard** and **Irene**. Harold died in September, 1946 at which time Albert was still making his home with his grandparents.

HENRY SALONEN, SIFERT JARVIE, AND ARTHUR STENLUND — from the Archives

Merikarvia, Finland, was the marriage place of Henry Salonen and Hedvig Vasti in 1883. Five years later, in 1888, Henry emigrated to Montreal, and worked in the rolling mills there. In 1893, his wife, with their small son Oscar and their small daughter Ellen, joined him and they made their home there for the ensuing three years. In 1896, they moved westward through the United States to Belt, Montana, where Henry worked in the coal mines.

Many people were leaving Montana at that time and there was much talk there of land that could be homesteaded in the North West Territories, where quite a number of the Finnish people had gone to settle. It was not until the fall of 1900, however, that Mr. Salonen left Belt for the much talked of place, Red Deer, in the North West Territories to see for himself what it was like.

Arriving in Red Deer, he presumably walked to Snake (Sylvan) Lake, as unless one was fortunate enough to get a ride with a settler, that was the usual mode of travel in those days. His first stop was at the home of Mr. Parvi, one of the earlier settlers in the Kuusamo district. After looking over the district, Mr. Salonen marked the

land that he wished to homestead and had Mr. Parvi haul logs to the site that he had selected to build his home, which was four miles west of Sylvan Lake on the present highway, across the road and west of Kuusamo school, now owned by W. Wager.

Mr. Salonen then returned to Montana, staying until March, 1901, when he brought his family to Canada. Shipping the household effects by freight, the family left Belt. Great Falls was their next stop. Changing trains there involved a lay-over of two days to wait for the next train to Lethbridge and two trains a week was fast service at that time.

Reaching Lethbridge, they stayed one night at the immigration hall and from thence they were sent east to catch a train to Calgary, since the service was faster that way than through Macleod, where the train schedule was apparently somewhat uncertain, trains being due only when they arrived. Arriving in Calgary, one night was spent in the immigration hall, where the family of six slept on a mattress on the floor. On arriving in Red Deer, the Salonen family went to the immigration hall, situated where the Club Cafe now stands. Each family staying there had to furnish their own bedding, but the Salonens had none, since theirs was packed with the freight. Until their goods arrived, which took about two weeks, they went to a nearby livery barn and borrowed enough lap-robies to make up their beds, returning them each morning.

Four families were staying at the hall, which was furnished with one stove, a few pots and pans and some dishes. Bread could be bought at a nearby house, but it was found to be raw inside, so the women baked their own. There was no snow on the ground when the Salonen family arrived in Red Deer, but deep snow fell before their goods arrived, and when they were ready to leave for the homestead, Mr. Salonen had to hire three teams and sleighs to take their small amount of effects to the home of A. Kinnunen, where they stayed until their house was built. Hospitality was very fine among Finnish people; there was always room for more, no matter how many were involved.

There were six in the Salonen family and five in the Kinnunen family, and they all lived together in a one-room, one-storey-and-a-half house, until Mr. Salonen built his own one-room, storey-and-a-half house, chinked the logs, and Mrs. Salonen and daughter Ellen papered over the logs to finish the house.

In the Red Deer, Mr. Salonen purchased an Indian pony for \$15.00 and its first colt was sold for \$200.00. An old grocery delivery wagon that had two shafts was bought, and, for many years, it served the family as a fine means of transportation. The first crop of oats grown on the homestead was cut with a mower on which Mr. Salonen had built a platform. His son Oscar drove the horses; the oats fell on the platform as they were cut; Mr. Salonen picked them off and laid them in bundle-sized piles; and Mrs. Salonen and Ellen tied them.

For the first years they spent in the country, Mr. Salonen and his eldest son Oscar went to the Crow's Nest Pass to work in the mines. Ellen, at the early age of 16, went to Red Deer to work for a well-known family for \$8.00 a month to help with finances on the homestead, but after two months, homesickness sent her home.

Mrs. Salonen had some mid-wife training in Montana and was gifted with the ability to care for the sick, which was a great help to the early Finnish settlers. Speaking but little English, she worked mainly among her own people, and she was noted for her cleanliness and capability and much loved for her kindness. The nearest doctors were at Red Deer, almost a day's ride away; consequently, Mrs. Salonen took the place of a doctor at the births of all the Woima and Woltti children, as well as many others.

Mrs. Salonen died in 1921 and Mr. Salonen followed her in 1937. Both are buried in Kuusamo Cemetery. They raised three sons and one daughter: **Oscar**, who died in 1952 at Vancouver; **George** who was in Benalto; **Amos**, whereabouts not known; and **Ellen**.

In March, 1903, Ellen Salonen went to Frank, Alberta, to work at the home of a friend. The wind there in the mountain pass was never still; it blew steadily all day and all night. About four o'clock in the early morning hours of April 29, Ellen, as well as the family that she was staying with, was awakened by what seemed to be an unusual roar of wind. The man of the house went to the door and after looking out into the night, assured the family that it was just a gale and went back to bed. However, the strange roar persisted, and he got up, dressed and went out. In a few minutes he was back, telling everyone to get up and dress, for he could see fires around and in the village, and everyone was running to the C.P.R. station. The family, taking a few belongings, went to the station, where they were put on a miner's train that was standing on a siding. It was used to take miners back and forth from the villages farther west as Frank was then the largest mining town in the Pass. That trainload of people was taken to Blairmore, not knowing that part of Turtle Mountain had crashed down on the sleeping town of Frank, and buried many of its homes beneath tons of rock. After several days, Ellen and several others went back to Frank, as they could not find sleeping accommodation at Blairmore. The police tried to induce them to leave, but they stayed, unafraid. In a short time, life began anew in the stricken village, and Ellen went to work in the hotel. News travelled slowly in those days and when Ellen's parents heard of the disaster, they did not know for some time whether or not she had survived. When news arrived, Ellen's mother still worried, not knowing but what it might happen again, and she sent for Ellen to come home.

In January 1906, Ellen was married to **Sifert Jarvie**, at the home of Reverend O. Hjelt on the shores of Sylvan Lake, the house now being on the property known as Camp Woods. Mr. and Mrs. Jarvie raised five children: **Walter**; **May** (Mrs. Archie Weber) of Calgary; **Ray**, of Vancouver; **Ivey** (Mrs. Elmer Kaila); and **Violet** (Mrs. Edwin McDonald) of Vancouver. Mr. Jarvie died in 1925 and is buried in Kuusamo Cemetery. In 1929, Mrs. Jarvie was married to **Arthur Stenlund**, who served for quite a number of years as road foreman for the Lacombe municipality and for many years, Mr. and Mrs. Stenlund took part in all the community affairs. They lived on the farm, along the shore of the lake, that was Mrs. Stenlund's first home and farmed it with the aid of her son, Walter, their particular hobby being raising chickens. In 1957, they sold the farm to Dr. W. Parsons and retired to Eckville. Mrs. Stenlund died on January

14, 1962, and is buried in Kuusamo Cemetery. Her daughter, Mrs. Archie Weber, died the same year. Mr. Stenlund died October 26, 1974. Mrs. Elmer Kaila (Ivy) died in Vancouver, July 24, 1971. Walter Jarvie died April 11, 1976, and is buried in the Kuusamo cemetery.

BEN SCHAMBERS — by Mrs. Urma Chambers

Urma Steel was born in Winfield, Kansas, the youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Wesley Steel. They moved to Canada into the Craig district in February, 1919. She went to the Craig School and then to high school in 1935 in Dickson, staying at the girl's dormitory.

Ben's folks came from across the "pond" in 1912. Ben was born in 1915 at Altario, Alberta. He had his schooling at Denzil, Saskatchewan. In 1934, in the depression years, he headed west looking for a job and landed at Benalto where he got a job in the Craig district until 1939, the year we got married, in November.



Ben Schamber's Family — 1948. L. to R. — LeaAnn, Floyd and Art.

In 1940 **Floyd** was born and we stayed at my folks' place until July, 1941, and then moved to Blackfalds and worked on the farm for Henry McLennan, a cattle buyer. In 1943, our second son, **Arthur**, was born and in 1947, our daughter, **Lea Ann**. In 1949 we moved down to the farm we had bought in 1948 from Mr. and Mrs. Ed Whaley, NE 26-38-2-5, and 39 acres of NW 26-38-2-5, both previously owned by Mr. S. A. Riekki. Our boys went to Kuusamo School until it was centralized in 1952 and were then bussed to Benalto. Lea Ann started in 1954. They took the last of their high school at Lindsay Thurber High School in Red Deer and all graduated. Lea Ann took a secretarial course and worked at Canada Trust Bank, Red Deer. In 1967 Lea Ann married Doug Anderson. They are now living in Red Deer and Doug is working in the hospital as engineer. They have a daughter Pamela, born in 1974. In 1967 Floyd married Nora Sambrooke, a school teacher. Floyd is working for the forestry at Rocky Mountain House, and Nora is teaching in Rocky. Arthur went to Toledo, Ohio, in March 1961, and took a meat-cutting course. He came back on May 15 and went to his grade 12 graduation at Lindsay Thurber High School and got a job at Cobb's Grocery, Sylvan Lake, cutting meat. In 1968 he married Diane Anderson, a registered nursing aide. In 1970 their first son, Duncan, was born in 1971 their second son, Jason. Arthur is still working at Cobb's.

ARTHUR SEVERTSON — by Madge Severtson SW 36-38-2-5

Arthur's parents came to Canada, and then to Alberta, from Norway in 1913 and settled near Sedgewick on a homestead where Arthur was born in 1915. He went to school there until 1923 when his father died. His mother, sisters and a brother moved to Edmonton, and in 1927 he was left without a mother. Arthur more or less ran the streets until he became a boy that mothers didn't want their children to play with, and at the age of fourteen he came to Robert Pearson's place to the Poplar Ridge district of Red Deer.

He has many memories of those years while he was growing into manhood. Growing up on a farm in those depression years of the thirties was really an education he would not have wanted to miss. For any one looking for something to do, there was no shortage of work to be done. When one looks back on the way things were done then, and the way of life now, what a change has taken place.

He also spent several summers clearing land east and west of Red Deer, working with an old friend, Arvid Whitehead of the Shady Nook district. His summers were spent doing that, and winters, either logging or skidding logs in mountain logging camps or road-building in Alberta or British Columbia. Always it was a "cat" to be pushed, or roller skates to work one's legs that had just pushed brake pedals all week.

His carefree bachelor days came to an end in 1954 when he married Marjorie Bell from the Centerville district. Then he really settled down to a more orderly way of life, but still worked "cats" clearing land and logging.

Marjorie was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bertram Bell, and a twin to Duke. She recalls riding to school on "old Tony" one morning, and being late, they were galloping down Holmgrens hill when Tony (being foundered) suddenly turned a summersault, landing Duke and Madge in the ditch. However, no one was hurt so they just climbed back on and went on their way to school.

Another incident she remembers was a winter when it snowed and blew so much that 10 or 12 men got together and shovelled a pass for the cars and teams to get through from Holmgrens past Bell's place. It was like going through a tunnel; you couldn't see over the sides even when riding the horse.

After taking her schooling at Centerville and Sylvan Lake, she graduated at Canadian Junior College near Lacombe. Afterwards she took her nurses' training at Lethbridge. She worked in a number of hospitals in Alberta and British Columbia and in 1949 went to a mission hospital in Nicaragua as instructor of nurses. Her years there were very interesting and memorable, but after three years she returned home and married Arthur whom she had known for some 20 years.

They spent their first three years after marriage in Lamming Mills, British Columbia, where **Keith** was born. In 1958 they bought the Riekki place in Kuusamo. Madge found it hard doing without power or phone, especially with a new baby as **Beth** was born that summer. They did some remodelling of the old house that Riekki had built in 1912. When adding to it, they found it had been well built; a solid stone foundation was under it. Arthur used to tell the children not to worry about the



Arthur Severtson Family — 1974. L. to R. — Keith, Duke, Arthur, Beth and Madge.

house falling apart in a wind; it would all have to go in one piece because there were many extra nails put in.

In 1962 their son **Duke** arrived to complete their family. They really felt the children have been blessed because they were raised on a farm and fortunate that they couldn't have everything money could buy. In 1966 they obtained one of Harry Bennett's quarters of land and later one of Pastobaks, the one across the road to the west of the home place.

Keith is taking business administration at Walla Walla College in Washington. Beth is also there taking nursing training. Duke is still living at home, going to school at Sylvan Meadows Academy.

MELVIN SEVERTSON AND MRS. SELMA ARMOUR — by Mrs. Guy Fitch

Melvin Severtson and his widowed sister, Mrs. Selma Armour, have a home of their own in the yard belonging to their brother, Arthur Severtson. Melvin was born in Sedgewick, Alberta, on January 17, 1919, and Selma in Kingsela, Alberta, on February 12, 1914. They lost their father in 1923 and their mother in 1927.

Selma married Donald Armour, from Ontario on July 15, 1940, in Edmonton, Alberta. Donald served overseas in the tank brigade of the First Army Service Corps from 1940 until 1946. At the time of his death on December 17, 1966, Selma and Donald lived at Langley, British Columbia.

Selma and Melvin have worked at several farm homes in Alberta before they retired in Kuusamo in 1967 where Selma raises a garden and Melvin does some chores.

THOMAS SR. AND ELIZABETH SMITH — by George and Edna Smith

Mr. and Mrs. Smith came from Scotland to the Irvine ranching district, east of Medicine Hat, in 1910. In 1924 they moved from that area and rented the Alex Staudinger farm south of Elspeth, until they purchased the present location, NW 28-38-2-5, from the late Charlie Jenkins. This quarter was the former home of the late Mr. and Mrs. Gust Kalaputas, Sr., and family from

1904 to the early twenties. Mr. Smith also bought two other parcels of land, Pt. SW 33-38-2-5 and Pt. SE 33-38-2-5.

One unusual occurrence on the trip up here was the time the box car was opened for inspection at Calgary and their dog got out. Imagine their surprise, while sitting in the C.P.R. station at Red Deer, waiting for the train to Benalto, to have their dog walk in. It must have hung on some place under or on the coupling of the box car. The conductor said, "I am going to make an exception; your dog can ride with you to Benalto". They were greeted by a lot of snow which piled up all winter. Prairie chickens were plentiful. Mr. Staudinger had a man building a log building in the yard at \$1.00 a round. These were well done, no nails, but wood pegs and dove-tailed corners: a work of art.

The road from Benalto to Sylvan Lake, now known as the "Blind Line" was mostly a trail winding through the bush with various gates to open, one detour being through Halstein — Riecki land.

Mr. Smith always had a staff of boys around. One day as they were cleaning up the last of a stack of oat bundles, a mouse ran up the inside of his pant leg. Being Scotch, he danced the highland fling and said an "Ode To The Mouse".

In 1924, and later, blueberries were plentiful. Now both blueberries and bluebirds are hard to find since the bush is gone. Still we can appreciate being in a beautiful and productive part of the country.

Mr. Smith's mother, **Mrs. Margaret Smith**, lived with them until her passing, March, 1947, and was buried at Medicine Hat, Alberta.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Smith were active in church and community affairs. He was an elder in the Presbyterian churches at Benalto and Eckville since 1927. He also served as president of the Benalto Agricultural Society for several years, and was manager of the Medicine Valley Livestock Association for four years, and served on the Eckville town council.

When Mr. and Mrs. Smith left to reside in Eckville, they sold their land to their eldest son, **George** and his wife Edna, who was born and raised in the Carbon district, southeast of Three Hills, Alberta. She has lived nearly 34 years on Grandpa and Grandma's home place, two and one-half miles east of Benalto, and was their first daughter-in-law. They raised two children, Patricia and David, and both attended public school at Benalto. Last fall, their daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Meyers, and baby son, came to live on the 60-acre parcel of land at Elspeth, Pt. SE 33-38-2-5. She has worked many years at the Imperial Bank of Commerce, Eckville, and he does carpenter work and is a sub-contractor.

In 1967, the Hudson Bay Oil and Gas Co. Ltd. bought from the Smiths a small parcel of land of Pt. SE 33-38-2-5, along the C.N.R. right-of-way. It is called the Elspeth Propane Terminal.

Four of the senior Smith sons farm in the Eckville district. **James** and wife Elsie have four sons and one daughter: Fred, Stephen, Ralph, Gordon and Linda. **Thomas, Jr.** and wife Janet have two sons and two daughters: Ronald, Murray, Isabel and Edith. **William** and wife Jean have four daughters: Beth, Sharon, Mary and Beverly. **Robert** and wife Kay have four sons and a

daughter: Gary, Dale, Philip, Jim and Cathy. **John** and wife Marlene live on Salt Spring Island, British Columbia. They have three sons and a daughter: Kenneth, John, Bradley and Becky.

Mrs. Smith predeceased her husband. She died November 3, 1955. He passed away November 3, 1976, just before his 95th birthday. Both are buried in the Eckville cemetery. At the time of Mr. Smith's death, he had 24 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

KARL SODERLUND — by Mrs. Helen Clark

In the old city of Pori, once called Bjorneberg, in the southern part of Finland, where grain and all kinds of fruits are grown, and where the sun sets after ten o'clock at night and rises at one o'clock in the morning, is where Karl Gustof Soderlund was born on April 18, 1878, the son of a sailor who had sailed the seas during the Crimean War. The climate was much the same as in Alberta, cool in the summer, but cold and crisp with plenty of snow in the winter.

While a young boy, Karl attended a school in Pori that would be called a technical school in Canada and learned the carpenter trade as he had a natural ability for building. He worked at his trade in and around Pori for several years and built his own home before being married in Pori on June 2, 1900, to Aline Wilhelmina Rosendahl, who was also a native of Pori, having been born there on March 27, 1879. Mrs. Soderlund was orphaned at nine years. From that time on she supported herself and worked her way in becoming a nurse. Prior to her marriage, Mrs. Soderlund had the honor of being asked to become head nurse of the hospital where she was employed but, instead, she chose marriage.



Log house and barn built by Karl Soderlund.

In 1902, Mr. Soderlund decided to leave Finland and try his luck in the United States. He sailed from Hanko Niemi, Finland, on the Finnish steamer Artturjus, for Hull, England, and went from there to Southampton where he stayed for 11 days. When the party of men that he was travelling with landed in England, they all wore big fur caps and heavy overcoats with fur collars and he remembers English people looking at them as if they were Eskimos. From Southampton, he sailed for New York on the steamer St. Louis. From there, going by way of Chicago, he travelled to Minnesota, where he found work at Sandstone and was paid \$1.75 a day and board for doing carpentry work. From there, he went to Butte, Montana, and then to Portland, Oregon, and proceeded to Goose Bay in the same state, where he worked at his trade and did some bush work.

In December, 1903, Mr. Soderlund went to San Francisco and worked in the Union Iron Works for ten hours a day for \$2.00. He walked south of San Francisco down through the San Joaquin Valley. The land looked poor and dry and very few settlers were along the way. Meeting an elderly man while walking through the valley, Mr. Soderlund was advised to homestead some of the land that was vacant for someday it would be worth a lot of money. He thought the man was having a dream, but some years later, Mr. Soderlund saw in the paper that land in that vicinity that he had walked through was for sale. He wrote to the real estate man in regard to the price, and found that the old gentleman had not been dreaming after all. Rich oil fields had been located there and the land was selling for \$1,500 and \$2,000 an acre.

Going back to San Francisco after his walking tour through the San Joaquin Valley, Mr. Soderlund turned north and walked 500 miles to Fort Bragg and then 25 miles further to work on a narrow gauge railway. He went from there to Roseburg, Oregon, then to Portland, then to Spokane, always looking for a place to settle that seemed like home. After Spokane, he visited Sandpoint, Missoula, Montana, then went on to Banner, Idaho, where he worked in a saw mill. In December, 1904, at Banner, he met Reverend Hjelt who had been instrumental in persuading quite a number of Finnish settlers to come to the area west of Red Deer, Alberta. When he found that Mr. Soderlund could do log work and build good log houses, Reverend Hjelt said Canada was the place to which he should go.

In January, 1905, Reverend Hjelt and Mr. Soderlund left Butte for Calgary, the trip taking five days. It was a cold day when they arrived and Mr. Soderlund afterwards said that the Y.M.C.A. was the biggest building he saw in Calgary. When they left Red Deer, they spent their first night in the Isaac Johnson home, north of Benalto, now the Einarson place.

In April, 1905, Mr. Soderlund filed on a homestead in the Gilby district, ten miles north of Eckville, now the Ed More place. The first house that he built was Reverend Hjelt's homestead home on the shore of Sylvan Lake which later was the Isaac Lampi home, and still later was donated to the Boy Scouts by Colonel J. H. Woods of Calgary, as part of the Camp Woods property. He built many homestead houses in the district and was able by July to send for Mrs. Soderlund and their two children. The fare at that time from Finland to Canada was \$80.00. When Mrs. Soderlund arrived, they stayed at

the home of Mr. and Mrs. John Heikkinen, who lived two miles north east of Eckville. In the spring of 1906, their own homestead house was finished and they moved into it. They stayed there until the homestead was proved up. They sold the property in 1908 for \$1,200, and purchased the quarter-section of land that is now the Vic Koski home.

Selling that property in 1911, Mr. Soderlund bought a quarter-section of land one-half mile north of the Elspeth Hall, and went into the threshing business and lost everything he had. He then bought 45 acres one-half mile north of Highway 11, near the old cheese factory. Subsequently he worked on or built: the Sylvan Lake home of Mr. and Mrs. F. D. McCrimmon; the Sylvan Lake school building in 1920; the new Imperial Bank premises in 1929; and some time later, he built the home of Don Edwards, who was the manager of the Imperial Bank at Sylvan Lake. He worked on the Sylvan Lake Hotel when it was built in 1928, and, in 1930, he remodelled the Tourist Inn and later built the cabins. During the Second World War, he worked on the army camp buildings in Red Deer, the hangars in the airport in Edmonton, and the army buildings in Calgary.

Mr. Soderlund was noted for his great strength, and many oldtimers told of seeing him walking along carrying a 100-pound sack of flour on his shoulder for the ten miles that intervened between Eckville and his homestead.

Mrs. Soderlund was known for her better home cooking, including smoked meats and fish, head cheese, whole grain bread, Fininish coffee biscuit. (Bread was never bought until they were on old-age pension after 70 years of age.) All socks were home-knit and almost all clothing was homemade. Their sauna baths that were enjoyed by many often included a treat of lemonade, then a cup of coffee and home-baked goodies.

In their crowded humble home, the Soderlunds gave room and board for most of the Finnish Evangelical Lutheran ministers during the thirties.

In 1950 Mr. Soderlund sold their home to Bill Reid and moved to Eckville and in 1951, he sold his new house that he built there to Dick Tooley and moved to Sylvan Lake where he built a new home in a new subdivision.

Mr. Soderlund died at Sylvan Lake on February 25, 1959, at the age of 80 years. Mrs. Soderlund survived him by less than three weeks, her death occurring at the Red Deer General Hospital on March 13, 1959, at the age of 79 years. She was hospitalized the same day that Mr. Soderlund passed away. Both Mr. and Mrs. Soderlund are buried in the Kuusamo cemetery.

The family consisted of 13 children, which included one set of twin girls. **Kate** was born in Finland, March 1, 1901; deceased in 1944; buried in San Fransisco. **Carl** was born in Finland, April 2, 1902; deceased on May 23, 1976; buried at Kuusamo. **John** was born in the Sylvan Lake district on February 27, 1908; buried in Ontario. **Freida** was born in Sylvan Lake, December 14, 1920; deceased on February 12, 1921; buried at Kuusamo. **Mary** was born in Sylvan Lake, May 11, 1906. **Irene** was born in Sylvan Lake, July 17, 1909. **Isaac** was born in Sylvan Lake, August 18, 1910. **George** was born in Sylvan Lake, September 15, 1911. **Aili** was born in Sylvan Lake, July 31, 1913. **Laura** was born in Sylvan Lake, January 15, 1916. **Ruth** was born in Sylvan Lake,

December 14, 1920. **Vieno** was born in Sylvan Lake, November 29, 1921. **Hellen** was born in Sylvan Lake, May 6, 1924. There are eleven grandchildren and numerous great-grandchildren.

MELVIN STANWICK — by Mrs. Ethel Stanwick

Peter Stanwick bought the McKee place in 1947, which his son Melvin rented and lived on for eleven years until 1958. Then he moved to the United States. The farm was sold to Vince Bell.

Melvin was married to Ethel Shearer of Carlton, Saskatchewan, on December 11, 1935, in Edmonton, Alberta. They have three children: Dorothy, Clayton and Donald. **Dorothy** was born in Camrose, Alberta, on May 15, 1939. She attended school in the Kuusamo district, then went to Benalto school, and later attended Canadian Union College for two years. She was married to Glen Pearson of Bentley, Alberta, on October 2, 1960. They have three children: Jacqueline, Lynette and Tammay. They live on a farm west of Bentley. **Clayton** was born in Red Deer, Alberta, on December 2, 1942. He married Annette Cornforth of Aberdeen, Idaho, on June 26, 1966. They have two children, Romona and Shelann. Clayton attended Walla Walla College and after he was married they moved to Fort Collins, Colorado, and there he attended Colorado State University where he got his B.A. in Agriculture. At present he and his family are at Andrew's University, Berrien Springs, Michigan for six weeks and then will leave for Ethiopia where he will be teaching agriculture in the school there. **Donald** was born in Eckville, Alberta, on April 19, 1947. On June 23, 1968, he was married to Cherry Bock of College Place, Washington. They have two children, Kimberley and Cheris. Donald attended Canadian Union College for one year then moved with his parents to College Place, Washington, where he attended the Academy and College before going to Portland, Oregon, to take his dental laboratory course. He is now living in Edmonton and is in charge of a ceramic dental laboratory, in which he is a partner.

Melvin and Ethel are living in the Penhold district where Melvin is semi-retired and Ethel is working at the Central Alberta Health Foods in Red Deer.

FRANK OSCAR STAUDINGER — N.W. 10-39-2-5 — by Mrs. Helge Staudinger

When the Frank Staudinger family came to the Kuusamo district, Frank bought the land that his brother Alfred had homesteaded in 1902. Though Alfred had proved a homestead at Kuusamo, his story will be found in the Marianne history.

Frank Oscar Staudinger had emigrated to the Great Lakes region of the United States, from Kalajoki, Finland, in 1896. There, he worked at hard rock mining. On June 27, 1905, he married Fanny Maria Lindy, who had emigrated from Lestijarvi, Finland.

Before coming to Alberta, the young couple had moved west, to Siletz, Oregon, where their eldest, **Wayne** Kullervo, was born on March 3, 1906. A brief sojourn to Wilkinson, Washington, saw the arrival of their first daughter, **Vivian** Katherin, on August 18, 1907. They were back in Siletz when **Fanni** Johanna was born, on August 29, 1909. During these years, Frank worked in a

hardware store and farmed. It was 1910 when the family moved to Kuusamo. Three more daughters joined the family. **Ellen** Kyllikki, on March 8, 1911, **Aino Helen**, on January 1, 1914 and **Esther** Louise, on December 21, 1916. Renting the farm out for a few years, they tried homesteading, in the Buster Creek district, west of Rocky Mountain House. During their brief stay there, **Alfred** Anselm arrived, on January 1, 1919. Their second New Years' baby! By the time their youngest, **Frank** Fridolf, was born, on February 7, 1921, they were back at the farm at Kuusamo.

Frank Staudinger was interested in public affairs. A clipping from the Red Deer Advocate, December 3, 1920, tells of a District Convention of the United Farmers of Alberta, which was held in Red Deer. Frank represented the Oras district at that convention.

His was not to be a long life. On June 18, 1925, death came from a ruptured appendix. Mrs. Staudinger and the family remained on their Kuusamo farm. In 1931, she married Victor Koski, a neighboring farmer. Fanny Maria passed away on November 10, 1943, but the old place remained "home" to the family until the passing of Mr. Koski, on February 16, 1955.

Tragedy struck the family on two occasions. Fanni Johanna, better known as Fay, was killed in an auto accident, at Seattle, Washington, at 19 years of age. Alfred Anselm died in an industrial accident, at Vancouver, B.C., in November, 1957.

Wayne and LaVere Staudinger have two sons and two daughters and several grandchildren, living in or near Calgary. Retired, they are making like pioneers, carving a new home from their forested, mountainside acreage, overlooking Creston, B.C. Taking most of the lumber from their own trees, they have even made the hand-split cedar shakes, themselves. Wayne spent many years, doing carpenter work for a living, most recently in Calgary and DeWinton.

Vivian is Mrs. Gordon Grey, of Seattle, Washington. Ellen is Mrs. Forest Reid, of Vancouver, B.C. Helen, is Mrs. Wayne Hawk, of Summerland, B.C. Esther was left widowed, with the sudden passing of her husband, Dr. A. C. Walsh, several years ago. She makes her home in Calgary, and has two adopted sons. Frank Jr. makes his home at the west coast and works in construction.

HENRY MALLUM STEVENSON AND FAMILIES — by Mrs. R. Gullon

Seeking adventure, **Henry Mallum Stevenson** came to Canada from England about the time of the Riel Rebellion in 1885. He joined the Northwest Mounted Police, and saw service at Fort Macleod and Fort Steel in the Kootenays. After concluding his enlistment, he returned to England where he married Catherine Rothney of Aboyne, Scotland. She lived on the River Dee near Balmoral Castle, where her father was supervisor of an estate.

A son, **Walter**, and daughter **Anne**, were born to them in England. Again Canada beckoned, and they came back to Canada. They landed in Montreal, but moved from there to Ottawa. Here a second son was born, **Herbert Gordon**, and in the course of time they were lured to the west, which was beginning to open up. They settled in Medicine Hat and opened a merchant-tailor business. The family increased in size with the birth of a



Top — Herbert Stevenson and Alfred Bell with fish caught at home shore of Sylvan Lake — 1904. Bottom — Henry and Catherine Stevenson with home in background — 1904.

second daughter, **Florence**, and later another daughter, **Edith**. He was not entirely satisfied with the arid countryside, and, learning about the lovely district of Red Deer with its park-like surroundings and rich agricultural land, and foreseeing a potentially profitable future in this area, he moved with his family to Red Deer. There he opened a merchant-tailor business on Ross Street, and explored the countryside. He discovered a section of land located on the shores of a beautiful lake which had an abundance of fish and wild life. This proved to be irresistible to him. At that time this lake was known as Snake Lake, but is now known as Sylvan Lake. He applied for a homestead patent, and built the first frame house on a beautiful bay on the shores of Snake Lake in the year of 1904. This home was built of B.C. red cedar lumber and sided with red cedar shingles. It was comprised of two upstairs bedrooms and one downstairs, a living room, and kitchen with a walk-in pantry. This house is still standing on south F.R. ½ sec. 12-39-2-5.

In the year 1941, his son, Herbert, and wife, Hannah, became sufficiently interested in his dad's property to acquire ownership and remodel the house. He retained the original home in the remodelling process and increased its size. He purchased the old Louquet farm from Mr. Louquet, the original homesteader, thus acquiring the NE quarter, and later the old Loisselle homestead, consisting of the NW quarter of section 12 from William Reid, who then owned it, thus providing a total area all around Third Point. The Kasota Summer Camp came from Loisselle's quarter.

Herbert's daughter, **Priscilla**, born February 11, 1945, in Edmonton, and husband, **Robert Gullon**, born

May 4, 1949, in London, England, and family are now occupying and farming the original homestead. This is the third generation to live on the original home site. Their infant son, **Gordon**, born October 20, 1976, is the fourth generation to make this his home. Robert is farming, and also works at Harper's Furniture in Red Deer.

The original farmhouse was a gathering place for all the relatives, and his sister, **Fanny Bell** and family with their sons **Bert**, **Alfred** and daughter, **Maud**, lived with the Stevensons from the years 1904 to 1906.

Mrs. Stevenson's brother, Major George Rothney, was Chief of Police in Red Deer, and spent his summers on this farm with the family.

Catherine Stevenson passed on in the year 1931 at Edson, Alberta, at the age of 66. Henry Mallum Stevenson passed away in the hospital in New Westminster, British Columbia, at the age of 90. Major George Rothney joined the Canadian Expeditionary forces in August, 1914, and saw service in France. He was killed in action in the First World War.

Walter Stevenson, after returning from a trip to Australia, joined the Lord Strathcona Horse at the same time as his uncle, Major Rothney, in the year of August, 1914. He saw service in France, was commissioned, and later joined the Royal Flying Corps as a fighter pilot, passing away in the hospital in France, in 1917, after an aerial dog-fight where he shot down two German planes.

Anne married Thomas Fowler of Aberdeen, Scotland. They went into the hotel business in Edson, Alberta, in 1918, and subsequently built a new hotel, which their son, Walter, is operating. He is now president of the Alberta Hotel Association.

Florence was a nurse, seeing service as a medical missionary in Peking, China. She later returned to New York, U.S.A., where she was supervisor in a large hospital. She is now retired and is living in Vancouver, British Columbia.

A third sister, Edith, who was born in Red Deer, is now living near her daughter in Dawson Creek, British Columbia, and occasionally comes to visit us in Sylvan Lake. She and her husband, Sam Herron, were in the automobile business in Jasper Park for many years.

Alfred Bell and Herbert Stevenson joined the Royal Flying Corps in the fall of 1917 as cadets for pilot and took their training at Camp Borden. They received their commissions just after the war ended in 1918. Herbert Stevenson owned and operated a chain of theatres in Alberta and British Columbia.

This is a brief history of the family of Henry Mallum Stevenson. The homestead which they developed is now called LAKE SHORE ACRES.

THE STINN FAMILY — by Mrs. Emily Stinn

Long, long ago in the coal mining area of Drumheller, there lived a little girl who, with her sister, used to visit their Grandma Pitkanen in the Kuusamo area. Those visits were wonderful — aunts and uncles let them live the life of adventure — herding cows, berry hunting, haying miles from home, horseback riding, swimming, picnics, concerts and above all, living in a big three-storey house that seemed as good as any castle. Well, as fate would have it, that girl, Emily Lowry Stinn, grew up, married and now has the happiness of living in the land of her dreams.

This is how it happened. LaVerne Stinn and his brother, Alphonse, were raised in the Rockyford area, east of Calgary. Alphonse came to Eckville to manage the U.F.A. Co-op garage and have a trucking service. Verne became a frequent visitor, enjoying the beautiful country, the hospitality, and the chance to get away from irrigating land. The two boys decided to rent some land and farm. It was about this time that cupid decided to fulfill his plans and both boys married Eckville girls — Alphonse married Josephine Coutts in 1943 and LaVerne married Emily Lowry in 1945.

The war took Alphonse and Joey to eastern Canada via the Airforce while Verne and Emily came as a young married couple to the William Holsworth farm, east of Benalto. Within a year the war was over and Alphonse and Joey were home so Verne and Emily moved into the little house on the other quarter they rented — also a Holsworth farm (Dave's).

In March, 1946, the Verne Stinns had a son, **Patrick**, and then in 1947 tragedy struck; they lost their home by fire. Luckily the family was fine and with community help they set up housekeeping in the Osterberg's abandoned house. Verne purchased the piece of land south of the track on the Dave Holsworth farm, shortly after — 27 acres on 28-38-2-5. In December, 1947, Verne and Emily had a baby girl, **Bernadeanne**. Meanwhile Alphonse and Josephine, unable to buy land, moved away and Berne worked away from home for two or three years. Finally they were able to buy the rest of the half-section and be farmers!

August of 1950 brought them another blessing — a girl, **Catharine**. But just as always, good and bad go hand in hand and so their areas were bothered by hail storms. This menace has become their yearly dread and finally science is trying to help. **Dennis** was born in January, 1952. The following years were good to them with good crops, hogs and milk cows, all emergencies were met.

The children grew up, went to school at Benalto, Sylvan Lake and Red Deer. Now Patrick, Bernadeanne and Dennis live in Calgary and Catharine in Richmond Hill, Ontario. The Stinns have five grandchildren — Patrick and Delilla have Diana, Lisa and twin boys Brian and Bradley. Catharine and Mario Zanetti have one daughter, Melina.

These little ones are always looked-for visitors and we hope that for them the Kuusamo area may become a land of pleasant memories.

SWARTZBOLD FAMILY — by Mrs. Ena Kinna

Mrs. Swartzbold lived in the Kuusamo district from 1934-37 inclusive. Her oldest daughter, **Anne Shore**, visited her mother but did not attend school here. However, four girls and one boy did. They were bright, well-behaved pupils and appreciated the help given to them by their neighbors. As adults, they thank their teachers for putting on Christmas programs that gave them such pleasure and confidence.

Anne lives in New Westminster. She has one son, **Dorothy Soroohan**, with one daughter, and **Clara Davis**, with two sons, live in Burnaby, British Columbia. **Isa Lentz**, with four sons, lives in Bremerton, Washington. **Ernest** and family are near Portland, Oregon. **Agnes**, unmarried, lives with her mother in Portland, Oregon. All the girls have visited in the district several times in recent years.

VERA AND WESLEY WAGAR — by Mrs. Vera Wagar
NE 34-38-2-5

Vera was born in Stettler, Alberta, on February 3, 1925, to Ella and George Wheeler, one of five children. George worked for John Deere Plow Company for 35 years in Stettler and Red Deer. His knowledge of parts and repairs was a great asset to all farmers in the area. George died August, 1963. Vera's mother's maiden name was Ella Bauer. Her father's name was Henry Bauer. They homesteaded in the Botha area, coming from Berth, Ontario, around 1905, living first in a log house with a sod roof, later building a large brick house which is still there today. Vera and family moved to Red Deer in 1930, a large town at that time. There were only about 500 students, attending five schools. She was taught by Mr. Harold Dawe in grade five, his first year out of University. He was a very shy fellow at that time. Mr. Dawe retired as superintendent of Red Deer Schools in 1975. Anyone who lived north of the bridge lived in the Village of North Red Deer. We had our own mayor and council until amalgamation with the city in 1946. Vera's dad, George, was on the council at that time. Percy Jarvis was mayor and Mr. Broadfoot was secretary. Vera's family home is on 60th Street. Mrs. Wheeler still lives there. She is 76 years old. Vera lived on that block for 43 years.

After Wesley and Vera were married, they bought a house on two lots for \$300.00. Two years later they bought a house next door for \$5,000.00, a fabulous price that we never thought we could pay. There was no water or sewer. We hauled our water in pails for one block from the North School, where the schools had drilled a well for all to use, as all dug wells in the area were condemned.

Wesley was born in Medicine Hat, March 30, 1921. His grandparents, Jake Wagar and Wesley Lyons, both homesteaded in the Whitla area around 1903. He was one of two children; a sister born in 1919 drowned at age 15 when she was wading in a creek. At the age of four years, Wesley was sent to Duluth, Minnesota, returning to Canada in 1941 to help on the farm at Whitla, Alberta. He enlisted in the Canadian army in 1943, taking his basic training in Calgary and then was sent to Red Deer, an A 20 RCASC training centre. During that time he met and married Vera on January 8, 1944. In June, 1944, Wesley was sent overseas, serving with the RCASC in the 3rd Division in their advance through France, Belgium, Holland and Germany, returning home January 1, 1946.

Vera and Wesley have three children: **Lyle** was born December 4, 1944, while Wesley was in Holland. He lives in Sherwood Park and has three girls: Sandra, Shauna and Shelagh. He married Ronon St. Peter. **Donna** was born December 9, 1946, and married Peter Hahn. They have two children: Ronald and Joanne. **Julie Hughes** lives three miles from her parents in Kuusamo district. She has one boy, **Jacob**.

Wesley, after his discharge from the army in 1946, worked as an electrician for Advance Electric which was doing considerable farm wiring because electricity was made available to farmers. He played a lot of fastball from 1946 until 1965. He also umpired and belonged to the Alberta Umpires Association, Umpiring Provincial games many times. In October, 1948, Wesley started

with the Red Deer Post Office as a letter-carrier which started door-to-door delivery service on November 1, 1948. The population of Red Deer then was 5000 people. Of the six original letter carriers, Wesley and Archie McBlane are the only ones still in the letter-carrier service. Wesley delivered mail until 1960 when he was promoted to letter carrier supervisor in charge of ten men, and now has a full time staff of 33.

Wesley is planning his retirement in the next year or so to enjoy the farm and do some travelling. Wesley and Vera moved from Red Deer to the Kuusamo district in 1974, buying Mr. and Mrs. Elmer McKee's home place. They are raising a few cattle, sheep and chickens and are really enjoying country life.

CARL WILDE FAMILY — by the family

Mr. Carl Wilde, his wife Dagny, and their four sons: **Wayne**, born 1931; **Willard**, born 1933; **Jack**, born 1937; and **Howard**, born 1940, moved to the Kussamo district in 1947.

Carl was born at Alba, Nebraska in 1896 and moved with his family to Oregon in 1906. After his discharge from the navy, Carl and his brother Walter came to the Carseland district in 1921 to visit their sister.



Carl Wilde Family — 1959. L. to R. — Jack, Wayne, Carl, Willard, Dagny, Howard.

In July, 1928, he met and married the former Dagny Christensen, who had moved from Iowa with her family in 1911. They moved to Okotoks district and Bentley before coming to Kuusamo. They lived in the "Cheese Factory" until Highway No. 11 was widened, and two other locations in the Kuusamo district.

The sight of Carl's Model A is well remembered as he travelled an enormous territory for Watkins products for 11 years.

Carl and Dagny retired to the town of Sylvan Lake in 1958. Dagny passed away on March 29, 1964. Carl, still active, lives in town.

Wayne married Phyllis Berreth in 1957. They farm at Piapot, Saskatchewan, and have four daughters. Willard married Ethel Moncrief in 1958. After living at Okotoks and Calgary, they have a garage business in Sylvan Lake. They have one son and one daughter. Jack married Della Burdick in 1959. After living in Sylvan Lake for many years, they now are with the gas company in Jasper and have two sons. Howard married Paula Nelson in 1962. They are also in the garage business in Sylvan Lake and have three sons.

ANDREW WOIMA — by Mrs. Ena Kinna

Andrew Woima was born November 10, 1866 at Alawieska, Finland. Mary Stoly, his future bride, was born in Kuortanella, Finland on June 10, 1873. They met in the United States and were married at Ely, Minnesota on February 22, 1893.

In 1900, the Woimas ran a small dairy business in Belt, Montana. Mr. Woima read in the papers and heard much talk about opportunities in Canada, where land was free. The decision was made to sell the dairy business and move north. Early in 1901, he and Mrs. Woima, with their four small daughters arrived in Red Deer. They found a place to stay at the Immigration Building — a crude very cold place, where all the cooking was done in the community kitchen. Mrs. Woima and the girls stayed here, until her husband looked the district over and found the location he liked best.

Mr. Woima selected, chiefly for its beauty, a wooded quarter section of land S.W. 2-35-1-5, three and one-half miles west of Snake Lake. From the knoll where the Woima house stands, the beautiful blue waters of the lake can be seen above the tree tops to the north, and on clear days, the stately snow-capped mountains to the west.

At the livery barn in Red Deer, a driver with a team was hired to take the Woima family to the home of Mr. and Mrs. Matt Kaila, former neighbors of theirs in Montana. The 25 mile cold, dismal drive through the deep snow, with heavy snow falling, made the country seem like a forbidden wilderness to Mrs. Woima and the young girls. Mr. and Mrs. Kaila, who had kindly offered to keep the Woimas until some sort of shelter could be built, made room for six more people in their one-roomed sod-covered cabin which already housed six Kailas.

A one-roomed shell of a house covered with tarpaper, somewhat leaky on rainy days, served the Woima family until a log house was built. Eight years later the present frame house was begun.

"Life", says the former Jennie Woima, "was anything but a bed of roses." Bread was made with shorts, and fish was the main food for the first year. Land had to be cleared, then spaded to make a garden. Fruit, even dried fruit, was a luxury for a number of years, because sugar had to be used sparingly."

The hay fields were the dry spots around the sloughs. The hay was cut with a scythe and piled by hand. A willow branch was used for a rope, and the hay piles were carried home to the barn, slung over the shoulders of the men. Small patches of land were cleared every year by hand. The settlers were neighborly and helped each other, offering their services and loaning their horses and implements. The first grain was sowed by hand, cut with a scythe, tied into bundles with straw, and threshed with a

wooden flail. By the time the settlers had some extra produce to sell, they had difficulty in finding a market. They would take the butter to Red Deer, but often found it was not wanted, even at five cents a pound. Money was scarce, so during the winter, many of the local homesteaders went to B.C. and worked in the mines or on railway construction. One winter while Mr. Woima was away working, the family had a near tragedy. Mrs. Woima, with the older children and some kind neighbors were in the barn tending to a sick horse. (One horse had already died.) One of the younger children, who had been in the house, ran to the barn and whispered that the house was on fire. Everybody dashed out to see fire showing through the roof. The horse was forgotten, and the men, using snow and water, managed to put out the fire, which was started by one of the young children who found a candle and lit it, setting it on the window sill. Promptly the curtain caught on fire. When the excitement was over the offender was found hiding under the sewing machine. In the mean time the sick horse died.

Andrew Woima was very interested in civic and community affairs. He helped organize a public library in the district, and served as a chairman on the Kuusamo school board for a number of years. He experimented with different kinds of grain, sowing small plots of several varieties, to find which would best suit his type of soil and the short growing season. He ordered a new variety of wheat and increased it until he could share the seed with others. Mr. Woima passed away in his sleep on April 21, 1914, leaving his widow Mrs. Mary Woima with ten children, the youngest 2½ months old. That spring men from far and near came with implements and put in the crop. Mrs. Woima never forgot that kind and neighborly gesture, nor the many other acts of kindness. Special mention should be made of the nearest neighbor, the late Andrew Woltti. He was always there when help was needed. Twice he stitched bad facial gashes the children got, and did a good job.

From that time on, the second daughter, **Lempi**, stepped into her father's place, and with her strength and some help from the younger children, kept the farm producing until the boys were old enough to take over in 1920. Those who knew Mrs. Woima well, said she was a woman with great courage. She would try any job that confronted her. She was cheerful and ambitious. These qualities helped her to conquer many trials and she re-soled all the family shoes, fixed the fences, made hay, sawed fire-wood, stooked all the grain and milked as many as twenty cows. She doctored the sick animals and skinned those that died. She would rise early to patch clothes and darn sweaters and stockings for the children to wear to school. From the whole wheat flour, ground at the J. Kinna mill 18 miles away, she made the breakfast porridge and baked ten to twelve loaves of bread three times a week, and sometimes that wasn't enough. She still found time to chat, joke and sip coffee with the friends who dropped in for a visit. When everything seemed to go wrong, she would take a walk and visit the neighbors for an hour. Mrs. Mary Woima passed away March 25, 1930. Both she and Mr. Woima are buried in the Kuusamo cemetery. Their family consisted of six girls and four boys.

Jennie, who married Kenneth Learned, lived in Seattle, Washington. She had a family of three. Died May 8,

1968. **Esther**, married to William Nelson, makes her home in Seattle. **Ena**, married Ernest Kinna, lives on a farm across the road from the original homestead. She has taught school for over thirty years, most of that time teaching in the near vicinity of her former home. **Ernest**, married Steffie Chabon, farmed the CPR quarter which his father bought shortly before his death. He died April 10, 1969. His wife Steffie still lives on the farm. They had one son. **Sten** the oldest son, passed away in Seattle, Washington on August 28, 1949. **Lempi**, Mrs. Arthur Blowers, passed away July 15, 1953, at Edmonds, Washington. **Signe**, married Lawrence Kennedy, farmed in Anchorage, Alaska, for a number of years. She had a family of two sons and two daughters. Passed away in Edmonds, Washington on March 13, 1955. **Mrs. Ida Pike**, Edmonds, Washington passed away on October 11, 1958. The former Ida Woima was the first diabetic to receive insulin in Red Deer. **Walter** married Ellen Koski, left the homestead due to ill health and worked in Calgary until his death on July 19, 1960. He had a son and daughter. **Theodore**, who worked in the mines at Drumheller for many years, then operated a concession at Chestermere Lake, passed away there on May 10, 1965. He married Hilda Boehlke, and he had one son.

With practically no training, the Woima family have been able to be of service to their own and surrounding districts by supplying music. It all started in 1915 when Jennie worked out and saved every penny she earned, until she was able to buy an organ for her home. The instrument had many octaves and as many as four at a time could pick out tunes while another pedalled. Mrs. Mary Woima heard "Silent Night" and "Peek-a-boo" much oftener than anyone now hears "Hello Dolly". She would say as she worked outside, that she knew everything was fine inside as long as the organ was going. Jennie and Kenneth Learned played at dances until 1929. They travelled with horses, later by car, for many miles through rain, mud, and snow to supply music for many different communities. Many a night's work was donated for schools, hospitals, Red Cross and many other worthy enterprises. Esther Nelson, playing with several orchestras did the same. Ena Kinna played the piano at dances from 1923 on. She and her husband Ernest Kinna have supplied not only Kuusamo district with music, but districts for many miles around. From such a musical family, it is only fitting to close with a folk song which was popular around 1914. It describes early homesteaders life to a T.

My house it is built of the natural sod.
The walls were erected according to Hod.
The roof it is flat and so very plain
And I always get wet when it happens to rain.
Hurrah for each count, the land is so free,
The home of the bachelor, the bedbug and flea.
You may sing of its praises and tell of its fame.
A-starving to death on a government claim.
My clothes are all ragged, my language is rough
My bread is corn dodgers, all solid and tough.
You'll find me all happy, and living at ease.
On sorgum molasses, no bacon, no grease.

ERNEST WOIMA — by Mrs. Steffie Woima

Andrew and Mary Woima and four children left Montana in 1901 to homestead in the Kuusamo district.

Of their ten children, Ernest William was the youngest. He was born on February 1, 1914, and died April 10, 1969. During his lifetime of 55 years, he was a Kuusamo resident. From the age of seven until the completion of grade ten, Ernie attended the rural, ungraded Kuusamo school. He then began farming with his older brothers. Softball was a favorite sport with the young people in those depression days. "Peanuts," a nickname Ernie had acquired, was the pitcher for the district team. But his services were often requested by other teams — the Sylvan Lake club and the Calgary Jimmies, to name two. He would hitch his pants up one side, then the other side, and the ball would fly. Peanuts played many a game stocking-footed as the hand-me-down running shoes had worn out!

In September, 1939, Ernest and Steffie Chabon of Edmonton, Alberta, were united in marriage. A few years later, they established their home on NE 35-38-2-5. Mrs. Woima still resides there. Most farmers in those years were engaged in mixed farming. Ernest was no exception. Money was scarce and farm produce sold at low prices. In 1940, he received \$8.50 for a Grade A hog. To supplement the farm income, Ernest raised mink, and from 1940-47 he kept bees.

In 1945, Ernie became the first farmer in this district to grow grain for registered seed. The first crop, registered Titan barley, was grown on 26 acres of unfertilized land with an estimated yield of 1080 bushels. New jute barley sacks for this seed grain cost 25¢ each. He was a member of the Canadian Seed Growers Association for many years. As the seed grain had to be cleaned, Ernest built his own seed cleaning plant on the farmstead. Farmers, from near and from miles around, brought their grain to this plant to be cleaned. During the later years of his life, Ernie did custom weed-spraying for farmers in this and surrounding districts. Many mornings he arose at 4 a.m. as it was calm at that time of day and ideal for spraying.

Music, was, and still is, a very integral part of the Woima family. The Kinna orchestra, with mainstays Ena (Woima) and Ernest Kinna, supplied dance music not only in the Kuusamo district but in towns and other areas for many miles around. For a number of years, Ernest Woima played the drums with this orchestra.

In 1936, Steffie Woima arrived in the Kuusamo district to teach school. She taught here for three years, then spent the next two at Bluebell School near Eckville. But because this meant spending only the week-ends at home, she returned to the Kuusamo School. In June 1943, she discontinued teaching to take on the full time job as a farmer's wife and a mother.

During the 1930's and 1940's, many young married couples couldn't afford a home of their own. They lived with one of their parents. Ernie and Steffie were luckier than many. They had a home of their own — converted granary! This was living room dining room, kitchen and bedroom all in one room. In spite of no power, no running water, cooking on a coal and wood stove, they were happy. The young people had so much fun with so little. They visited, played cards of various party games, and often on a Friday night, piled into a Model A or T Ford to go dancing until dawn.

Steffie had many adjustments to make from city to farm living. For example, no one had told her, nor had

she noted, that cows were tied in their stalls. One late wintry afternoon, when her husband was returning from Burnt Lake with a sleigh load of hay, she decided to help him by putting the cows into the barn. As she opened the door, each cow filed dutifully into her own stall. Steffie then closed the door and returned to the house. Shortly after, Ernest stopped the team in the barn yard. He rushed to the stable, opened the door and cows came flying out! Some had horse collars around their necks; others, reins tangled in their feet and horns. As the furious three-month-old groom entered the back door of the house, his bride thought it expedient to exit by the front door.

In February, 1954, Mrs. Woima returned to teaching at the Sylvan Lake School. She teaches grade five here at the present time.

Ernest and Seffie had one son, **Ernest Daniel**, born January 13, 1949. Dan, an electronics technician, is married and lives in Edmonton.

Some recollections of their early life — The Woimas obtained their first milk cow by trading one sow, her brood of ten piglets, plus the princely sum of \$15.00. The first calf, a bull naturally, licked a leaded-painted fence post and died. A sturdy hog fence was a dire necessity, but money was still scarce. Ernest bought some cheap slabs for this purpose. His wife planted a lilac hedge to hide this unsightly structure. By the time the lilacs grew tall enough to serve their designated purpose, the fence had rotted! Good old haywire! It kept many a car running.

ANDREW WOLITTE — by Mrs. Ena Kinna

Andrew Woltti and Sanna (Susanna) Mynta were born in Finland. Both came by separate paths to the U.S.A. They met at Belt, Montana, and were married there. They ran a boarding house in Belt until 1901, when they moved to an Alberta homestead, SE 2-39-2-5, west of Sylvan Lake, now the property of Howard Kathol.

Mrs. Woltti passed away suddenly on November 24, 1906, at the age of 33. She was the first adult buried in the Kuusamo cemetery. Mr. Woltii was left with five small children. A tall, lanky, healthy man, he learned rapidly to make bread, butter, cook, wash clothes, clean house, mend clothes, make and fix implements, get the children off to school, and still find time to clear and break some land each year and raise cattle, horses, hogs and poultry.

Being friendly, he enjoyed callers and saw the bright side of life. The many children in the neighborhood liked him because he had patience and took time off his busy schedule to make or fix their sleds, wagons, skis or swings. He visited and helped the sick and gave democrat or sleigh rides to those needing them. He did his share

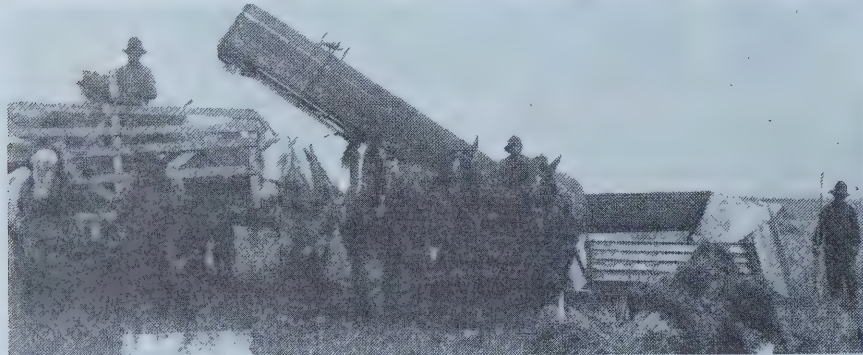
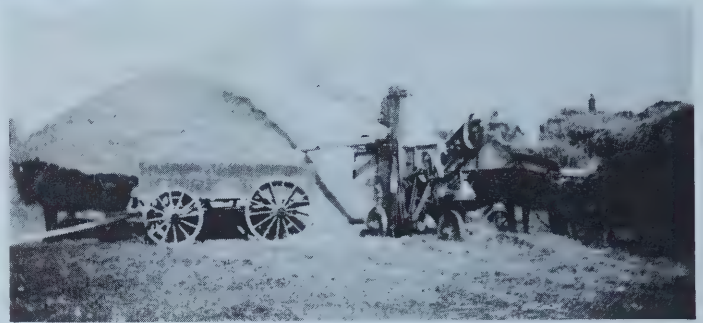
assisting with school and community projects. He was always in debt, but he was honest and his credit was good. "Before one implement got paid, it was time to buy another", he'd say. Then he purchased Mrs. Jack Staudinger's quarter north of his own and moved the house into his own yard. "A little remodelling and I'll have a new house", he said with a twinkle in his eye.

During the winter of 1912 and 1913, Andrew Woltti, son John, with neighbors Andrew Woima and August Anghren, took a government contract to break the first highway from the shore of Sylvan Lake west three and one-half miles. Four dollars per day was paid to a man with a team of horses. They cut, branched and skidded the trees. Another neighbor, T B. Millar, hauled the timber away.

Following a brief illness due to an enlarged heart, Mr. Woltti died May 14, 1935. He lies in the Kuusamo cemetery. The family consisted of three girls and three boys. A son, **Antti**, died in infancy at Belt, Montana. **John Axel** was born March 23, 1897. He served in World War I for two years, remaining overseas until his discharge August 10, 1919. He returned to Alberta, working for a time in the Nordegg coal mine. Then he mined in Alaska. In 1932, at Carbonado, Wisconsin he was one of two survivors in mine explosion that took 26 lives. At Renton, Wisconsin, on December 13, 1950, he was buried under two tons of rock in a coal mine cave-in 300 feet underground. His fellow miners worked furiously nonstop two and one-half days before rescuing. John died on October 18, 1974, at Kent, Wisconsin, U.S.A. He had a wife, Lydia, stepson and stepdaughter. **Hilma** was born in 1898. She suffered a stroke and passed away at Ording, Wisconsin. Surviving are her husband, William Hueneka and a family of three, **Annie** was born at Belt, January 16, 1900. She was a born cook and an excellent seamstress. She passed away January 12, 1966, and is buried at Burnaby, British Columbia. Survivors are her husband, Lester Johnson, four daughters and a son, all residing in British Columbia. Mr. Johnson farmed at Sylvan Lake for several years, then worked at the Steveston, British Columbia fish cannery until his retirement. **Gustaf Adolph** was born at Sylvan Lake, June 5, 1901. He was unmarried and farmed west of Sylvan Lake for most of his life. The late Charles Palmer of Sylvan Lake handed Gustaf some books on steam engineering. After studying these books, he wrote exams and obtained his certificate. He worked for a time as an engineer in Yellowknife, N.W.T. He passed away November 6, 1960, as a result of a stroke. **Senia E.** (Mrs. W. Mackie, later Mrs. Geo Torsti), was born January 4, 1904. She lives at Sylvan Lake. She enjoys her gardening and doing fancy work. She has two sons, James and Marvin Mackie.



Methods used in preparing firewood. Bottom L. — Road grading in 1916 with 12 horses. Bottom R. — Well drilling.



Harvesting.



Three methods of stacking hay — Top — Using a jayhawk. Bottom L. — team and rack (Armstrong brand). R. — Four horse buck and slide. Plowing in 1912— note the rail fence.





L. to R. — Interior of a pioneer log house. Center part a pioneer log house with a sod roof built in 1901, rough lumber additions built later. Modern log manse built in 1935. Frame house built in 1912, notice the

soon forgotten chimney sweep. Bottom — Two of the early ball teams in Kuusamo.



Finnish church services were held in homes, the Kuusamo School, and at Unity Hall which later became the Lutheran Church — At bottom — Pastor and Mrs. Wallis and his choir.



Dear Reader,

The Evarts book committee is proud to have been a part in the presentation of this section of our book to you, the reader. It is written in memory of all those early pioneers who paved the way for us. Without them, we would not be reaping the benefits today. It was from the fading memories of the past we have endeavored to reconstruct the good old days. In some cases the memories are thread-bare, and sometimes they had completely disintegrated. We have pulled the threads together and in some instances, mended. We humbly apologize for any error we may have committed in the process. We have worked tirelessly, toiling long into the nights to burn the midnight oil, so all we can say is — we tried.

In reading our endeavors of the following pages, please keep in mind that Evarts, in the early part of the century, was not confined to the area as we think of it today. We must remember Evarts at one time, was the only trading centre between Red Deer and Rocky Mountain House. We should also remember, it was one of the first schools organized and so naturally names from outside our present day boundaries will arise. We feel they belong there, in the Evarts story, because they did at that time, belong to Evarts. Our wish to you as you delve into our part of the Burnt Lake Trail, — enjoy it — as much as we have enjoyed writing it.

P.S. There is someone who is not here today to sign her name with the rest of us, namely the late Queenie Staniforth, who gave of her efforts in the early stages of our section of the book. We cannot fail to recognize her part in this. Many stories would be unfinished today, had it not been for her.

Humbly submitted,



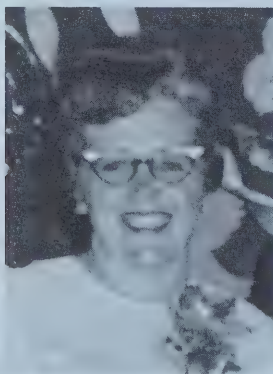
J.R. Staniforth



Dorothy Leucke



Mrs. Bramall



Nellie E. Watson



Queenie Staniforth.

EVARTS

VILLAGE OF EVARTS

It is very hard for us today to try to understand there was a lively, bustling village at Evarts, with two restaurants, one hotel, a creamery, two blacksmith shops, at one time three stores, barber shop, church, school, livery, laundry and several residences. Lucius Evarts, being the first family to settle on the west side of the Medicine River, and the man responsible for obtaining a post office at the village, received the honor of having the village named after him. By about 1902, there were a few homesteaders scattered about the valley. These have been mentioned many times, so rather than cause embarrassment by omitting some, we decline to list them. Mr. Samuel Braton, homesteaded directly north of the village and when there was a rumor that a railroad would be coming through, practically by his doorstep, he decided to donate his property on the south side of the road directly opposite his farmstead, for the purpose of building a village. The name for this proposed village was "Medicine Valley". Homesteads had been made available for filing in 1902, and it was right at this time the village boomed. A steady stream of freighters were passing through on their way to lumber camps to the west and on to Rocky Mountain House. One enterprising homesteader, Mr. George Robinson, decided to open a store in 1902, in his cabin. We are undecided if this very

first store was at the homestead or in the village. We are inclined to think it was in the village sight as we are told he later sold to Forhan. We assume the store passed on to J. H. Robinson, then to Maddison and then to A. L. Stewart, McNally, Langer, Ristock and Reeves. Another store was built by Mr. Hedrick, in 1903 and it too passed to many different owners, namely, Edwards, Killick, Foulkes, Smith Brothers, Simpson and Hastie. A third store was in operation for a time by Taylor and Allen in about 1906. We cannot decide why, in a very busy little village, should the store businesses have changed hands so many times. Perhaps farther fields were greener.

The school was built the summer of 1903, being made ready for use after the Christmas season. Buildings were popping up like mushrooms. A blacksmith shop was already in operation by Mr. Stopson and much later in 1906, Ed Good and his bride came to Evarts to start the second blacksmith business. The making of branding irons, repairing machinery and shoeing horses was much in demand, with freighters stopping at Evarts. Pete Lekvold, a farmer, homesteaded just to the northwest of the bridge, built a restaurant and a Mr. MacDonald ran the business. A second restaurant operated by a Chinese man (name unknown) was also in existence. The year 1906, was a boom year for Evarts. Mr. Dingman started a creamery. This business was later taken over by the

Cont. on p. 555



Evarts main street, 1906, on left — Parker House Hotel.

To the best of our knowledge this is a list of residents on each quarter. We apologize for any mistakes there may be.

N.E. 21-38-2-W5

Wm. Holsworth Sr.
Wm. Holsworth Jr.
Dave Holsworth
Jack Kraft
Alphonse and Laverne Stintz
Harold Tennant
Pat Loewen
Gary Playfair

S.W. 21-38-2-W5

R. A. (Dood) Staniforth
Reuben Redelback

N.E. 16-38-2-W5

Kate Loken
Martin Loken
Knut Hollingstead
Baumback
Wm. Owen
Cecil Barnhardt
Ed Lawson
Brian West

S.E. 16-38-2-W5

J. W. Watkins
Eric Mannerfeldt
Ed Mannerfeldt
Harry Periche

S.W. 16-38-2-W5

Martin Loken
John Sjare
John Holsworth
Wm. Holsworth
Ben Sevedy
Ole Johnson
Elmer Sjare
Dixie Nah Bexie
N.W. 16-38-2-W5
Ed Loken

S.E. 9-38-2-W5

Mrs. Walker
Leslie Walker
Peter Cameron
Harry Durward

N.W. 9-38-2-W5

Seivert Lindelin
Ed Liddell
Hans Wengberg
Jack Knowles
Phil Holloway
Rick Hambly
Gerry Forsell
N.E. 4-38-2-W5
W. Otto
Dennis Bramall
Earl Klammer
Chandler Bros.

S.E. 4-38-2-W5

O. Norman
W. E. Bramall
"Scotty" Rogers
R. W. Bramall

S.W. 4-38-2-W5

D. S. Smith
Robertson Bros.
Donald Blair
Carl Jensen
Wm. Staniforth

N.W. 4-38-2-W5

J. MacDonald
J. Willoughby
Dave and Bob Robertson
Ebe Frew

S.E. 5-38-2-W5

Louie Kathol
Jim Romaine
Tony Chilibeck

N.E. 8-38-2-W5

Arthur Staniforth
John Staniforth
Jack Friesen
George Barrett
Jim Davidson
Harold Scott
John Robertson
John Anderson

N.W. 18-38-2-W5

N. Braton

S.E. 18-38-2-W5

Sam Braton Sr.
Roy Ray
Bill Allen
Ed Paull
Jim Walker

S.E. 17-38-2-W5

Wilbert Siebel
Ralph Hambly
Rick Hambly

S.W. 17-38-2-W5

J. W. Watkins
McMillan Bros.

N.W. 17-38-2-W5

McMillan Bros.
Orla W. Nielsen
Walter Raider

N.E. 20-38-2-W5

Henry Siebel
Ralph Hambly
Terry Hambly

N.E. 20-38-2-W5

J. C. Johnson
S.E. 20-38-2-W5
H. Matson

N.W. 20-38-2-W5

Tigerstead
Herman Mattson
J. Holsworth
P. Anderson
Bill Euren
Ellsworth
Leeti

S.W. 20-38-2-W5

O. J. Olund
J. Wood
Oscar Soderquist

N.W. 20-38-2-W5

Louie Haurer
O. M. Nielsen
Merle Nielsen
Myron Nielsen
Dennis Bramall

N.W. 20-38-2-W5

R. L. Tennant
Wm. Robertson
John Robertson
Keith Robertson

N.W. 19-38-2-W5

Masters
Ed McBride
Jack McBride

Robbie McBride

Cecil Chestney
Joe Stroebel
Martin Martins
Merle Hillman
Aubrey

Jens Jensen

Tim Albert
Marshall
Bill Laddley
Alf Cartiniske
Muriel Steele
Tony Went
Jim Bach

David Archibald

Bud McBride

N.E. 18-38-2-W5

N. Braton

S.E. 18-38-2-W5

Sam Braton Sr.
Roy Ray
Bill Allen
Ed Paull
Jim Walker

S.E. 17-38-2-W5

Wilbert Siebel
Ralph Hambly
Rick Hambly

S.W. 17-38-2-W5

J. W. Watkins
McMillan Bros.

N.W. 17-38-2-W5

McMillan Bros.
Orla W. Nielsen
Walter Raider

N.E. 20-38-2-W5

Henry Siebel
Ralph Hambly
Terry Hambly

N.E. 20-38-2-W5

J. C. Johnson
S.E. 20-38-2-W5
H. Matson

N.W. 20-38-2-W5

Tigerstead
Herman Mattson
J. Holsworth
P. Anderson
Bill Euren
Ellsworth
Leeti

S.W. 20-38-2-W5

O. J. Olund
J. Wood
Oscar Soderquist

N.W. 20-38-2-W5

Louie Haurer
O. M. Nielsen
Merle Nielsen
Myron Nielsen
Dennis Bramall

N.W. 20-38-2-W5

R. L. Tennant
Wm. Robertson
John Robertson
Keith Robertson

N.W. 19-38-2-W5

Masters
Ed McBride
Jack McBride

Robbie McBride

Cecil Chestney
Joe Stroebel
Martin Martins
Merle Hillman
Aubrey

Jens Jensen

Tim Albert
Marshall
Bill Laddley
Alf Cartiniske
Muriel Steele
Tony Went
Jim Bach

David Archibald

Bud McBride

N.W. 6-38-2-W5

S. Lindgren

N.E. 1-38-3-W5

Jessie and Sadie Caton

Frank Jackson

Lambert Bowles

Bob Ford

Clyde Stauffer

Gerald Stauffer

Russell Stauffer

H. Luymes

Ken Cox

Geo. Stephen

Murray Stauffer

N.E. 2-38-3-W5

George Way

S.E. 2-38-3-W5

O. M. Forhan

Alex Duncan

Jack Symes

S.W. 2-38-3-W5

Wm. Woof

Rod Galbraith

George Cowie

Wm. Thomas

Neville (Ed) Carter

Lawrence Murphy

N.W. 2-38-3-W5

John Nelson

Adam McPherson

George Duncan

W. E. (Bob) Bramall

Wm. McPherson

John Gowans

Angus McNeil

John McNeil

Robert Baanerman

N.E. 11-38-3-W5

George Cowie

Muriel Steele

Ron Tisdale

Louis Gauthier

Esmond Doering

Jim Anderson

Fred Anderson

S.E. 11-38-3-W5

Frank Cuddihey

Jack (Darcy) Cuddihey

John Cuddihey

Lila Cuddihey

S.W. 11-38-3-W5

Hugh Murphy

N.E. 12-38-3-W5

L. P. Everts

E. G. Hussey

Harvey Jackson

S.E. 12-38-3-W5

Geo. W. Robinson

Cyrus Jackson

Ken Jackson

Joe Ardell

Max Hall

Clyde Stauffer

S.W. 12-38-3-W5

A. F. Anderson

N.W. 12-38-3-W5

J. Warwick

Wood

Phil Wiggins

Chamberlin

Boyden

John and Mel Chatwood

Dobson

B. Fisher

Max Hall

Bob Larratt

Clarence Ostercamp

Alex Brown

Jerry Kenzle

Dick Weins

Les Rutschke

Rich Heaton

John Stump

N.E. 13-38-3-W5

J. Honsky

S.E. 13-38-3-W5

F. Becker

Jerry Chapman

Hugh Murphy

David McNeil

S.W. 13-38-3-W5

David McNeil

Harold Burdick

Elmer Rasmussen

Jack Volk

Norman Isaman

Mike Vissia

Jim Carlyle

Keith Leavitt

Robert Allen

Lloyd McNeil

N.W. 13-38-3-W5

Anderson

Fred Ponto

Siebel

Jim Carroll

Carl Feitl

Lloyd McNeil

N.E. 14-38-3-W5

W. W. Howe

R. Fleming

Donald Wilson

S.E. 14-38-3-W5

Floyd Hedrick

John Watson

G. Kay Watson

J. Ross Watson

S.W. 14-38-3-W5

P. H. Forhan

John Nelson Jr.

Simon Lund

Jack Mullarkey

Mrs. Willett

N.W. 14-38-3-W5

H. Farrar

Wm. Stredwick

Melvin Davies

John Watson

G. Kay Watson

Alec Lackie

Oats

Don McLeod

Charlie Wright

George Cowie

Alex Grant

Ted Greenwood

Orville Rindero

John Lakusta

Tom Galloway

Jim Anderson

N.E. 23-38-3-W5

Ed Medin

N.E. 24-38-3-W5

D. R. Claude

S.E. 24-38-3-W5

Pete Lekkold

Peter Fleming

S.W. 24-38-3-W5

E. Fredrickson

Orla W. Nielsen

Jim McKinnon

Hilding Engman

Tommy Smith

Cooks

Les Coulter

Dixie Nah Bexie

N.W. 24-38-3-W5

J. H. Robinson

John Nielsen

Dewey Nielsen

S.E. 26-38-3-W5

Bob Black

Arthur Bunch

Needham

Leo Soerd

N.E. 32-37-2-W5

Vigfus Haldorson

26

f.o. H. Bay Co.
Leo Soerd
P.O.

The Original Evarts School District

N

Range 3

Range 2

Benalto (Melita)

f.o. C.P.R.
Lorne Nielsen
P.O.J. H. Robinson
"H"
Nov. 30, 1907
E. & L. Nielsen
P.O.D. R. Claude
"H"
June 1, 1903
Peter Stewart
P.O.f.o. C.P.R.
Riverbend
Farms
P.O.f.o. C.P.R.
Riverbend
Farms
P.O.R. L. Tennant
"H"
K. R.
Robertson
P.O.J. C. Johnson
"H"
W. A.
Holsworth
P.O.f.o. C.P.R.
Oliver
Ropsfelt
P.O.f.o. C.P.R.
G. & T
Playfair
P.O.

23

f.o. C.P.R.
G. Kay Watson
P.O.f.o. C.P.R.
Roger L.
Nielsen
P.O.E. Fredrickson
"H"
Nov. 14, 1904
Lloyd McNeil
P.O.Pete Lekvold
"H"
Nov. 5, 1902
D. J. & A.
McNeil
P.O.f.o. C.P.R.
Riverbend
Farms
P.O.f.o. C.P.R.
Riverbend
Farms
P.O.O. J. Olund
"H"
D. C. & Ardis
Bramall
P.O.H. Matson
"H"
R. Redelback
P.O.f.o. C.P.R.
R. Redelback
P.O.f.o. C.P.R.
H. A.
Staudinger
P.O.H. Farrar
"H"
Jan. 4, 1904
G. Kay Watson
P.O.W. W. Howe
"H"
Feb. 18, 1904
G. Kay Watson
P.O.f.o. C.P.R.
Lloyd McNeil
P.O.f.o. C.P.R.
Lloyd McNeil
P.O.P. P. Lekvold
"H"
John Staniforth
P.O.N. Braton
"H"
H. D. Wells
P.O.f.o. C.P.R.
Terry Hambly
P.O.f.o. C.P.R.
Terry Hambly
P.O.Ed Loken
"H"
D. C. & Ardis
Bramall
P.O.Kate Loken
"H"
H. Periche
P.O.
B. West
P.O.

14

P. H. Forhan
"H"
Jan. 2, 1904
Brian Craig
P.O.F. Hedrick
"H"
Nov. 1, 1902
G. Kay Watson
P.O.f.o. C.P.R.
Lloyd & Evelyn
McNeil
P.O.f.o. C.P.R.
Lloyd McNeil
P.O.S. H. Braton
"H"
John
Staniforth
P.O.N. Braton
"H"
Peter Stewart
P.O.f.o. C.P.R.
Terry Hambly
P.O.f.o. C.P.R.
Terry Hambly
P.O.Martin Loken
"H"
Ralph & Terry
Hambly
P.O.J. W. Watkins
"H"
Dorothy
Periche
P.O.f.o. School
G. Kay Watson
P.O.f.o. School
G. Kay Watson
P.O.J. Warwick
"H"
Oct. 29, 1903
Lloyd McNeil
and
Ernest Walker
P.O.L. P. Evarts
"H"
Dec. 3, 1902
L. E. Jackson
P.O.f.o. C.P.R.
Peter Stewart
P.O.f.o. C.P.R.
Peter Stewart
P.O.f.o. H. Bay Co.
R. A. Staniforth
P.O.f.o. H. Bay Co.
R. A. Staniforth
P.O.f.o. C.P.R.
Ralph & Terry
Hambly
P.O.f.o. C.P.R.
R. W. Bramall
P.O.

11

f.o. School
Lloyd McNeil
and
Ernest Walker
P.O.f.o. School
Lloyd McNeil
and
Ernest Walker
P.O.A. F. Anderson
"H"
March 15, 1905
Lloyd McNeil
and
Ernest Walker
P.O.Geo. W.
Robinson
"H"
Oct. 20, 1902
Stauffer Farms
Ltd. P.O.f.o. C.P.R.
L. E. Jackson
P.O.f.o. C.P.R.
Wm. Staniforth
P.O.f.o. H. Bay Co.
Alice Traill
P.O.f.o. H. Bay Co.
Janet Ferris
P.O.f.o. C.P.R.
Wm. Staniforth
P.O.f.o. C.P.R.
H. Durward
P.O.John Nelson
"H"
Oct. 27, 1902
Lloyd McNeil
P.O.George Way
"H"
Nov. 27, 1902
Lloyd McNeil
P.O.f.o. C.P.R.
Stauffer Farms
Ltd.
P.O.f.o. C.P.R.
Stauffer Farms
Ltd.
P.O.S. Lindgren
"H"
Stauffer Farms
Ltd.
P.O.Wm. Jealous
"H"
Time Sale
C. H. Sands
Elmer Loyek
P.O.f.o. C.P.R.
D. C. & Ardis
Bramall
P.O.f.o. C.P.R.
A. Chilibeck
P.O.J. MacDonald
"H"
Wm. Staniforth
P.O.W. Otto
"H"
Fraser Bramall
P.O.

2

Wm. Woof
"H"
Oct. 27, 1902
Lawrence &
Gloria Murphy
P.O.O. M. Forhan
"H"
Jan. 21, 1904
Walter & Eileen
Hanna
P.O.f.o. C.P.R.
Stauffer Farms
Ltd.
P.O.f.o. C.P.R.
Stauffer Farms
Ltd.
P.O.A. Lindgren
"H"
Elmer Loyek
P.O.Wm. Jealous
"H"
Time Sale
C. H. Sands
Elmer Loyek
P.O.f.o. C.P.R.
Elmer Loyek
P.O.f.o. C.P.R.
A. Chilibeck
P.O.D. S. Smith
"H"
Wm. Staniforth
P.O.O. Norman
"H"
R. W. Bramall
P.O.

Happy Hill

S

Hannes
Eymundson
"H"
H. C. Hillman
P.O.V. Haldorson
"H"
Walter Hanna
P.O.

32

Thoral
Eymundson
"H"
Walter & Eileen
Hanna
P.O.Bjorn
Thorlakson
"H"
Walter & Eileen
Hanna
P.O.f.o. School
H. C. Hillman
P.O.f.o. School
Crown
P.O.f.o.
James Dooney
A. E. & G. Lee
P.O.

29

f.o. School
Gerald Axelson
P.O.f.o. School
Gerald Axelson
P.O.Allen Holland
P.O.

28

KEY

f.o. - First Owner

"H" - Homesteader

P.O. - Present Owner(s), 1976

#1. Chevron Standard Ltd.,
Sylvan Lake Gas Plant, P.O.#2. Calgary Power Ltd.,
Benalto Sub-Station, P.O.

#3. Chandler Bros., P.O.

Individuals and groups own property in the original
Evarts Hamlet site. 1976 Resident-Owners are:

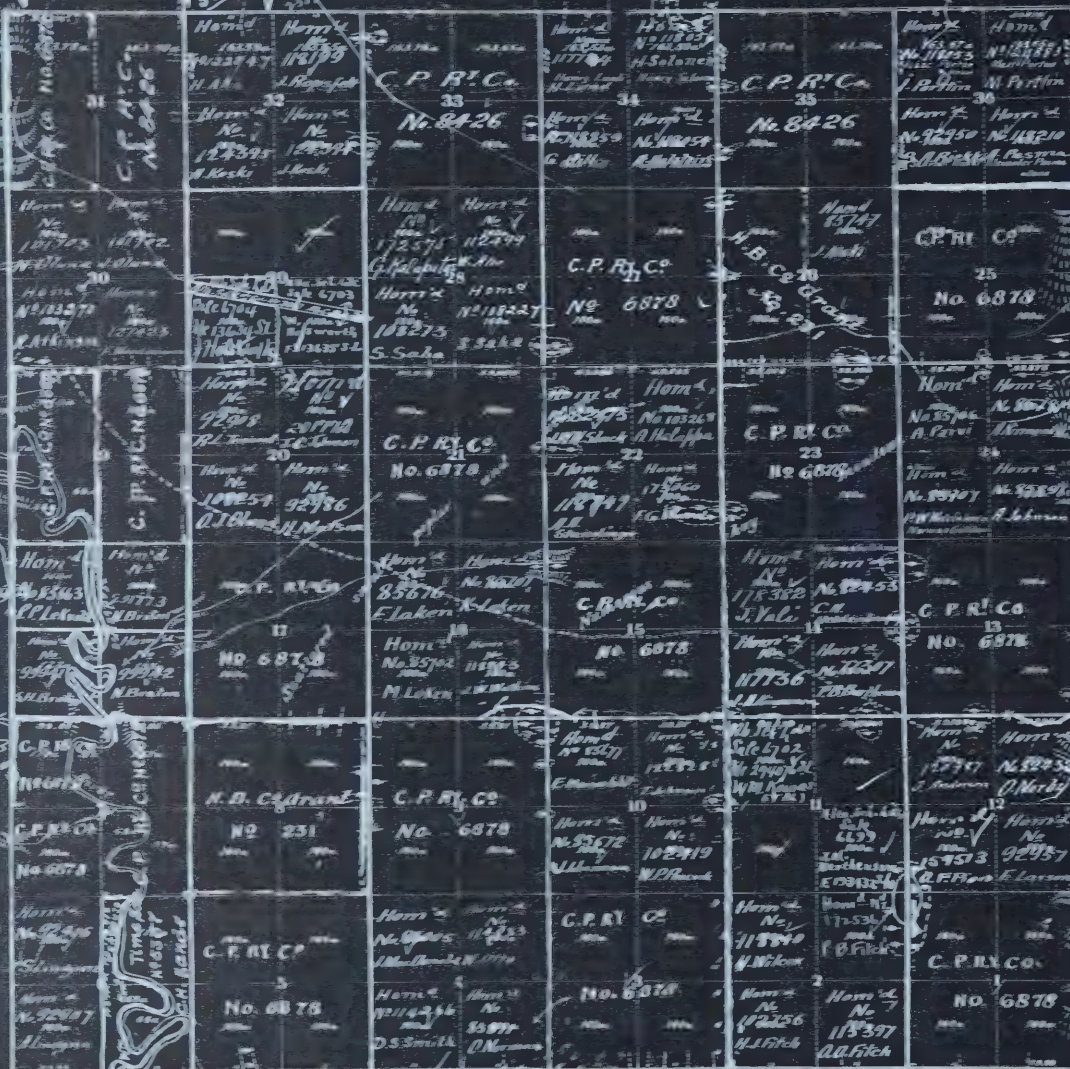
#4. L. Rutschke

#5. H. W. Tebbutt

TOWNSHIP NO 33

RANGE 2 WEST OF FIFTH MERIDIAN ALBERTA.

Scale, 40 Chains to an inch.



Computed from official surveys by

J. R. Woods D.L.S. 1895
A. McPherson D.L.S. 1891
Tom Knorr D.L.S. 1885

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
TOPOGRAPHICAL SURVEYS BRANCH
Ottawa, 10th August, 1902

Cherville
(Bartholomew)

EXPLANATION OF COLORS.

Woods ☐ Scrub or Prairie and Woods ☐ Improved Land ☐
Marshes ☐ Bare or Windfall ☐ Water ☐



Mainstreet 1911. L.R. Pearl Craig, Kit Barhand, Jenny May Woodhancy, Annie Walker, Charlie Tennant, Eric Bergstrom, Ida Aho

on white pony, Alma Niskenen, and looking out of window — Mrs. Sam Smith (Beaton). On sidewalk Granny Laird, Sam Smith, sitting Dick Kapsala — others unknown.

well known cheese-maker, T. B. Miller. The bridge across the Medicine was first built of sturdy logs and lumber in 1902. The logs for this bridge had gotten away in the spring flood and had to be relocated and snaked back — not an easy job. Again speaking of 1906, the church appeared on the scene here also. Going back two years to 1904, a rather large hotel was built, for its time, by Mr. Parker. This business changed hands readily also, but apparently was a thriving business as by 1904 and later, freighters and settlers were even more numerous (see hotel). A man by the name of Richard Thomas had a barber business set up in the hotel for a time. Sawmills were numerous as demand for lumber to build was tremendous. A mill was moved to the banks of the Medicine right at Evarts, by the Clausen brothers in about 1902, and they supplied a lot of lumber for the building of the town by floating logs down the Medicine in the spring, from even the Horseguard area. Other mills remembered in the area west of Evarts were: Joe Bouquet, Lloyd Bannerman, Jack Hart, Jamieson brothers and Jim McKecknie. The lumber sold at the mills for 25 dollars a thousand and the freighters got seven dollars a thousand at Red Deer. Can you not almost see the freighters loaded as heavy as possible with four up, shouting encouragement and doing some urging with the ends of the lines as well or possibly a long stick or whip. Mud-holes were common in dry as well as the wet seasons. The wagon wheels cut in deep. Getting stuck was ordinary practice, making it necessary to unload sufficiently to get out. Hundred pound bags of flour looked black instead of white, after a trip from Red Deer or Innisfail through these conditions. Dr. Bill Parsons, Red Deer, mentioned the fact, his father related that getting stuck with horse and buggy was often done as well. The Evarts flats were known for the heavy thick gumbo which seemed to almost hold the wheels from turning. One particularly cold winter. Mr. J. H. Robinson lost several horses, by what is described as freezing their lungs. You cannot but feel sorry for these poor animals who suffered so much — truly beasts of burden. It was common to see a horse lie down on the trail, unable to go farther. They often learned that lying down, provided a rest, and some

smarter horses learned to become quite balky, as soon as they were overloaded. Nothing seemed to move a balky horse, they got up when they felt like it. We have even heard of fires being set to move them. Of course this was dangerous practice, as the horses might decide to balk again as soon as they moved from the fire, putting the load in jeopardy.

One rather amusing incident happened in Evarts, when one of the first cars, or possibly the very first car made it to Evarts. It was heard coming from the east and by the time it motored through Evarts, everyone within shouting distance was out on main street to witness the event. I am told it was a hard-tired chain-driven Ford — top down, and the proud owners from Red Deer, hardly noticed the admiring crowd as they went non-stop through the village. Some ran behind the car, to check the speed. The amusing thing that happened was, that the driver's head had been turned slightly by all the attention he was given and he did not notice in time that the road gave a sudden turn to the south, to approach the bridge. Unable to negotiate this sharp turn in events, the car and passengers plunged unceremoniously into the river. They had assistance to recover themselves and eventually were



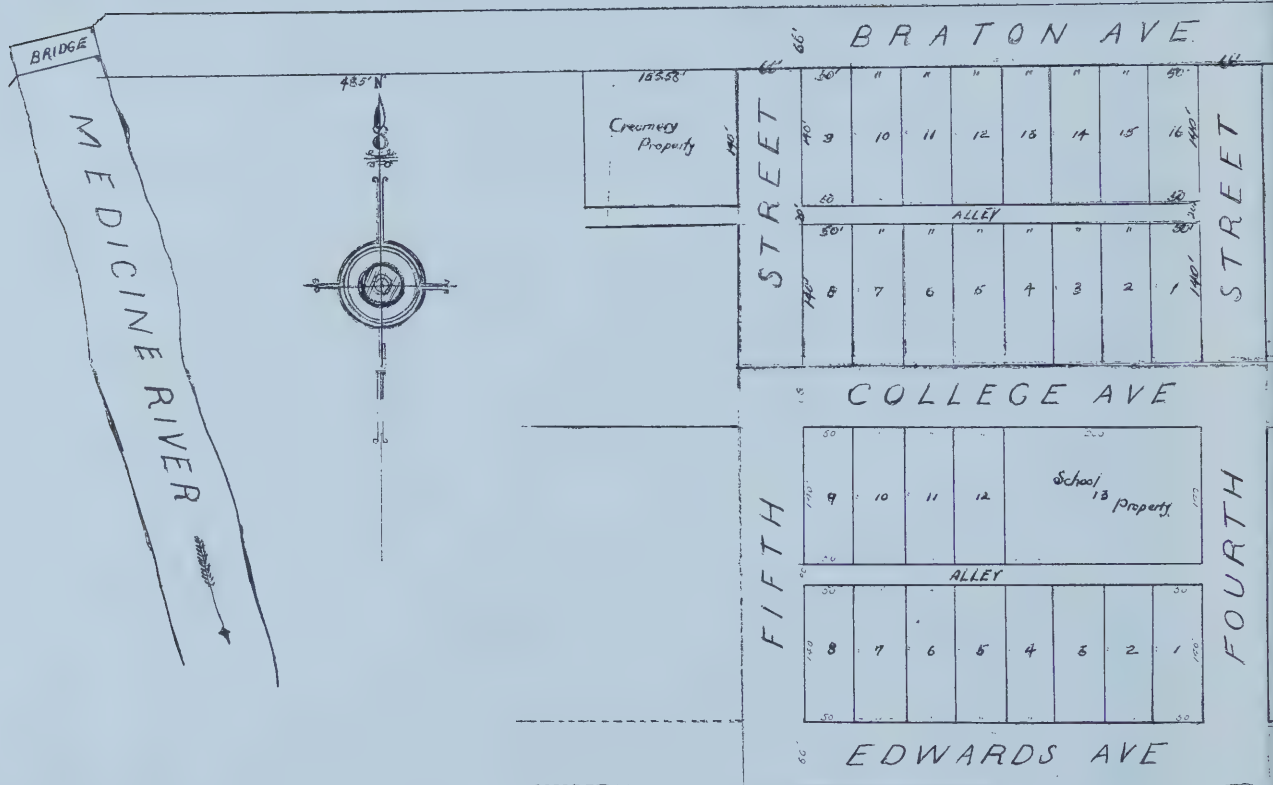
Evarts October, 1919. Mrs. Laird and Mrs. Jack Robinson.

Plan XXV

— OF THE
MEDIC

— BEING A SUBD
N.E. ¼ SEC. 7 - TP.
— Owned by Samuel Braton

— SCA



Canada
North West Territories } I. Samuel Braton of near Red Deer in the District of Alberta
do wit in the North West Territories Farmer, make oath and say:
1. That I am the owner in fee simple of the West west quarter of section seven in
Township thirty eight Range two West of the 7th Meridian, in the Dis-
trict of Alberta aforesaid
2. This plan showing a sub-division of part of the said land has been
prepared under my authority -
Given before me at Red Deer in the Dis-
trict of Alberta in the North West Territories this
21st day of July 1903.

S. Braton

Edw H Greene

A Notary Public for the N.W.T.

cont 153 E²

AN LAGE OF — E VALLEY

OF A PORTION OF THE —

2-W. 5th MERIDIAN

Surveyed by A. McFee D.L.S.

FEET = 1 INCH.

1802
400'

66'

400'

66'

400'

66'

AREA OUTLINED
IN RED PLAN XXV

$$532 \times 752 = \frac{389,424}{43,560} = 8.94$$

I, A. McFee of the Village of Innisfail Alberta, N.W.T. Dominion Land Surveyor do solemnly declare that this accurately shows the manner in which the land included therein has been Surveyed and Subdivided by me and that the said Plan is prepared in accordance with the provisions of the "Land Title Act" 1894

Dated at Innisfail Alta. this 24th day of June 1903

Signed in the Presence of

E. D. Wilson

A. McFee

Canada.

North West Territories

I E. D. Wilson of the Village of Innisfail

of the North West Territories Make oath and say

To Wit

1. That I was personally present and did see A. McFee named in the within Instrument who is personally known to me to be the person named therein, duly sign and execute the same for the purpose named therein
2. That the same was executed on the day of the date thereof at the Village of Innisfail of the North West Territories and that I am subscribing Witness thereto
3. That I know the said A. McFee and he is in my belief of the full age of Twenty-one years

E. D. Wilson

Sworn before me at Innisfail

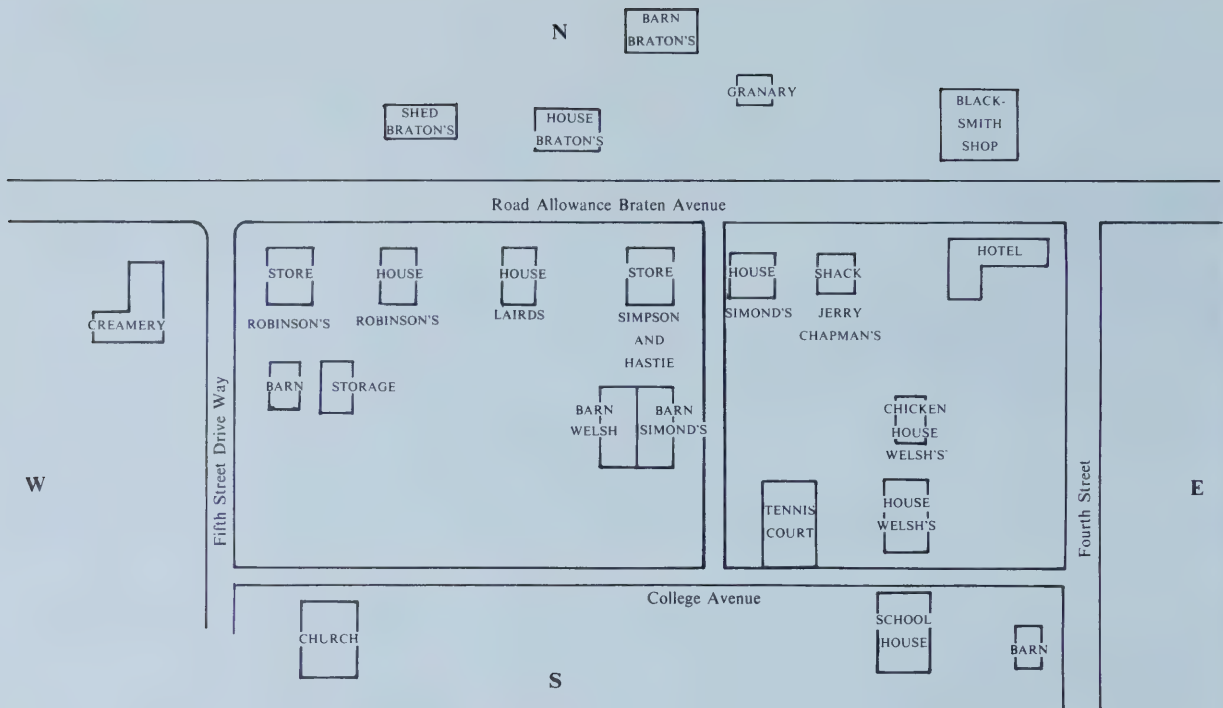
in the North West Territories this 24th day of June 1903

H. M. Douglas

a J. P. in & for the N.W.T.

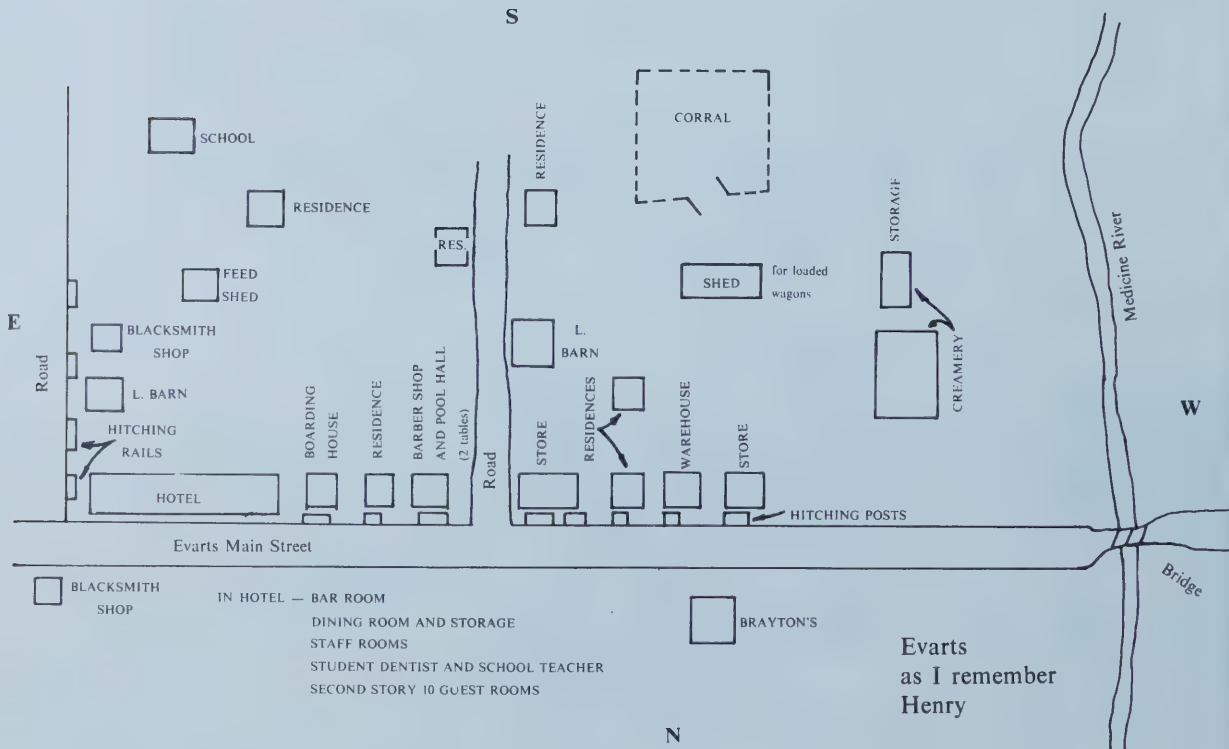
Witnessed George Wilkins too "Gross of
Red River in the North West Terr.
Arrived make oath and say
personally present and did see A. McFee
personally known to me to be the
same for the purpose therein named
and executed the same on the 24th day of June
1903 at Innisfail and that I am the
Witness thereto
with the said party and he is in my belief
of twenty-one years
at Red River
Innipeg this 11th
203

Geo Wilkins



This is a copy of a sketch of the buildings in Evarts taken from my old diary and dated at Prince Rupert, British Columbia, May 4th, 1920.

Yours truly,
Barney Eymundson



Two maps of Village of Evarts — Barney Eymundson, Henry Johnson.



1. Evarts store — Reeves — 1950.
 2. Evarts — 1950.
 3. Evarts — 1912.
 4. Evarts 1920 (before fire).
 5. Evarts from the west.
 6. & 7. May 1969 — bridge burning.



Evarts October, 1919. Jack Robinson.

able to continue their travels, probably just a bit more modestly.

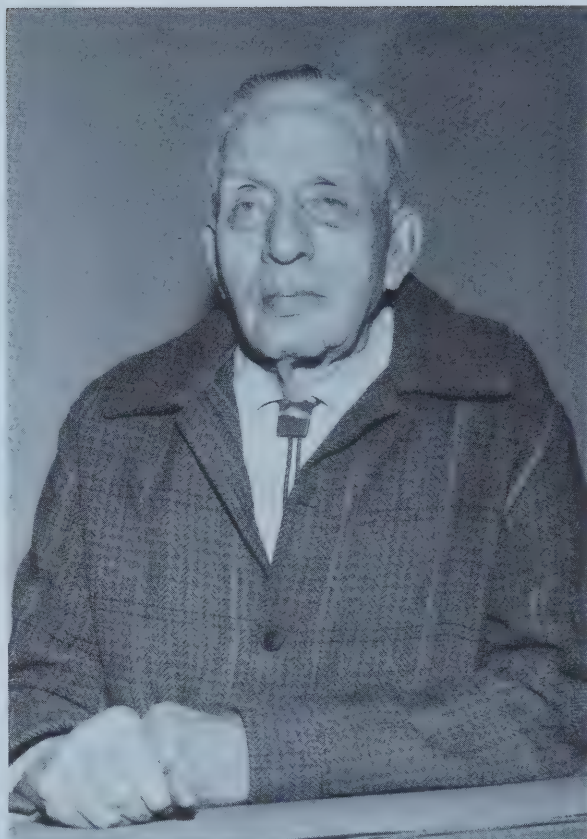
Time marched on as usual and by 1912-1914 found the decline of Evarts village. By now it was positive, the railroad was by-passing Evarts. With its coming, the need for freighters soon became non-existent. Business men in the village moved to Eckville, Benalto and Rocky Mountain House, leaving a skeleton of what had once been. Buildings were torn down and some moved to other localities. One store owned by A. L. Stewart remained, housing the post office, the church withstood the decline, as well as the school. After the building of the new school in the 1930's, the old school building was moved to a new location and used for many years as a community hall. The curling rink which was built later, became a drawing card for Evarts in the winter months. Now Evarts was a quiet little hamlet, far different from the early freighting days.

We would love to continue to reminisce, but time and space does not permit and so we pay final tribute to all the founders of Evarts village. You might say they were the salt of the earth.

LUCIUS PHILO EVARTS

Lucius Evarts was born in Lonville, Wisconsin on June 15, 1854. On the 29th of December, 1878, he was married in Beanford, Minnesota, United States of America, to Listella Hill. They lived on the prairie there for eighteen years, then moved to the Dakotas, where they resided for four years. Here in 1900, they decided to try Canada for luck.

Johnny Martin was just a small boy, but he was the one who brought Lucius Philo Evarts and his family to N.E. 12-38-3-W5, in about 1900. The Evarts family were the first family to settle in our district, having forded the Medicine River to get to their location. Other men had crossed but Lucius, having settled with his family was the reason why he was given this honor. The accompanying map shows how sparsely populated Evarts district was at this time. The family built a log house on their farm and when homesteads were made available in 1902, we assume they were one of the first to file. It is noted in the school minutes that Mr. Evarts was present at the very first meeting held to organize a school district. Lucius also was instrumental in the founding of the post office, writing the necessary letters to Ottawa for permission in



Jim Orrin Evarts.

1903. Although other names for the post office were suggested such as Medicine Valley and Braton, Ottawa named the newly formed post office, Evarts, honoring the man who did the correspondence.

Mr. and Mrs. Evarts extended kind hospitality to many settlers who arrived, without a place to stay while locating. They are especially remembered by Jack and the late Andy Murdock, also the late Billy Woof. According to an obituary notice in a Penticton, British Columbia, paper, the Lucius Evarts family moved to Penticton in 1906 where he and his family resided on Van Horne Street until the time of his death, having raised a family of eight children. They are as follows: **Philo A. Evarts** of Idaho, Mrs. **Mary Cunningham** of Tacoma Washington, Mrs. **Bessie Shaw** of New York City, Mrs. **J. Boyd, Lucias E., Orin J., Mrs. Fred Sutherland** and Miss **Edna**, all of Penticton. Mr. Evarts predeceased his wife on October 25, 1912. He was a Mason member and also a Methodist. He had been in poor health some time before his passing. All of the family are now deceased.

On looking up the family tree, a grandson of Lucius Evarts, Neal Evarts, has corresponded with us in regard to his uncle, Orin Evarts.

Orin Evarts revisited our district in the forties or fifties, to see again the place that was named after his father, leaving a picture of himself, which we proudly share with you. Although the Evarts family lived only six years in our district, they have left their mark with us in the naming of our district.

LUCIUS PHILO EVARTS

Lucius Philo Evarts passed away, at the family residence, Van Horn street, on Friday morning, October 25. The deceased had been ailing for some months, and latterly was confined entirely to his bed. When the end came it was not unexpected. Gradually sinking, he passed peacefully to rest, with many members of the family by his bedside.

The deceased was born in the United States, in Lenville, Wisconsin, on June 15, 1854. On the 29th of December, 1878, he was married in Beanford, Minnesota, to Letella Hill, who now mourns her loss. They lived in the prairie country for eighteen years, finally removing to Dakota, where they resided four years.

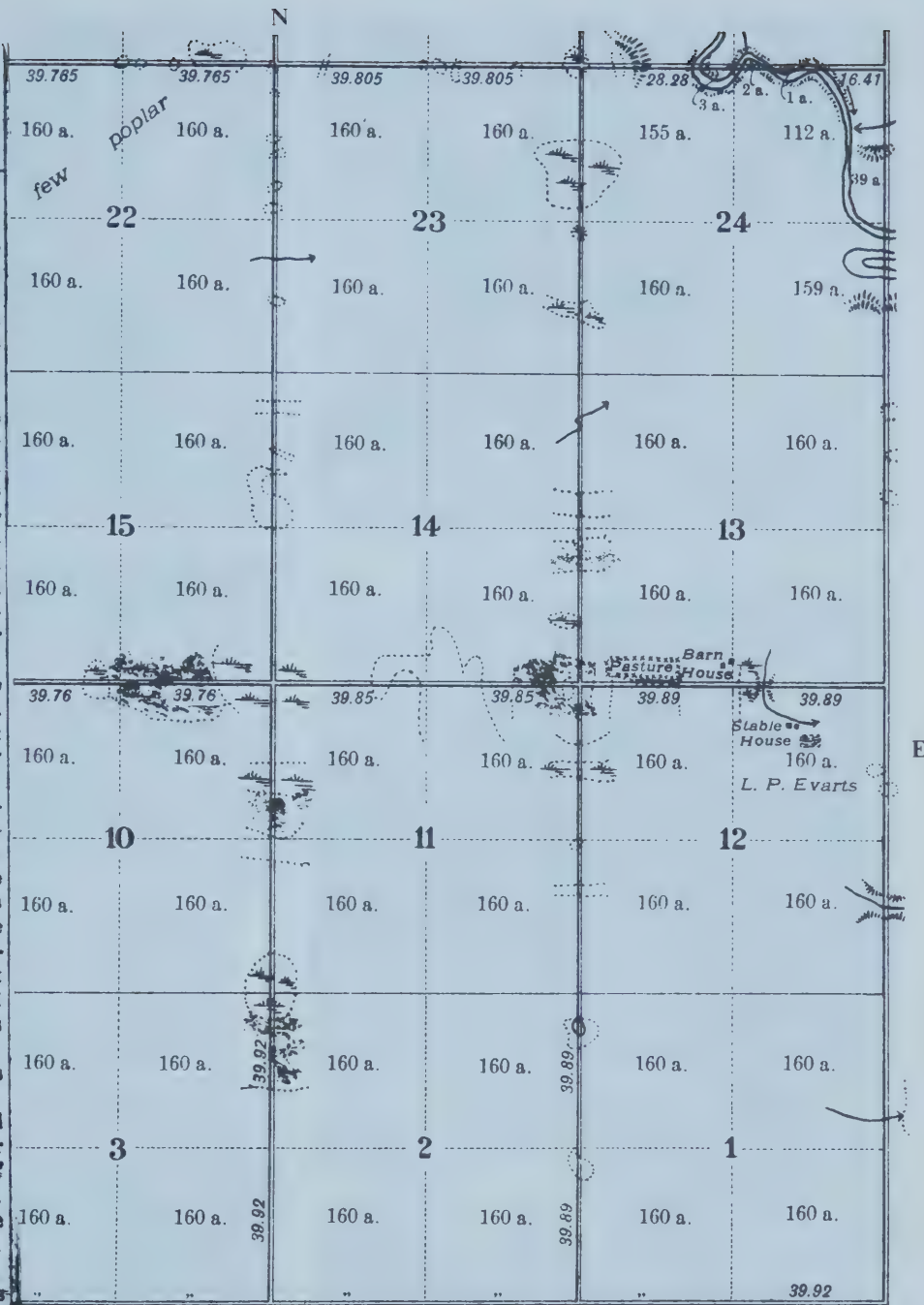
In 1900 Mr. Evarts moved to Canada, and after a sojourn in Alberta, came to Penticton in 1906, where he and his family have resided since.

The funeral services were under the auspices of the Methodist church and the Free Masons. Rev. G. O. Fallis conducted the Methodist services. After this service at the house, the Free Masons, of which order the deceased was a member, took charge, and conducted the burial services. Some forty members marched to Lakeview Cemetery, where his last earthly remains were laid to rest.

The deceased leaves a wife and eight children to mourn their loss. Philo A. Evarts, of Idaho; Mrs. Mary Cunningham, of Tacoma, Wash.; Mrs. Bessie Shaw, of New York City; Mrs. J. Boyd, Lucius E., Orion J. Mrs. Fred Sutherland and Miss Edna, all of Penticton. The community at large extends sympathy to the bereaved family.

Mrs. Evarts wishes to express to Mason neighbors and friends, her gratitude for their practical sympathy and help during her recent bereavement.

Date of death, Oct. 25, 1912.



TOWNSHIP 38 - RANGE 3-W 5 S

Map denotes - 1900
Printing date - 1902

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
TOPOGRAPHICAL SURVEYS BRANCH

Ottawa, 12th August, 1902

EVARTS STUDIO
300 SOUTH LINCOLN
POST FALLS, IDAHO 83854

E. Deville
Surveyor General.

We have been supplied with the geneology of the Evarts family furnished by "New England Historical and Genealogical Register", through a Mr. Hal Evarts.

One, Luther Evarts, the first so mentioned was born in 1759, the eldest of eleven children, son of Samuel Evarts and Leah Bishop, later moved to Washington, North Carolina, probably from Guilford, Connecticut, where the Evarts family had centered for several generations. This Luther, of the sixth generation of Evarts in America, was probably the progenitor of the founder of Evarts, Alberta and quote from Randal Evarts, Post Office Box 864, Madisson, Wisconsin. "Originally the family was Dutch and spelled Everaerts and some ancestors went to live in England where the name became Evers, Everson, Evarts and Everts. One branch settled in Gloucestershire, where William Evarts was born in 1569. His eldest son, John Evarts born 1601, came to Concord, Massachusetts, in 1634 and later moved to Guilford, Connecticut. From the five children of John Evarts, came all the persons living in America today with the name Evarts and the other variations.



Neal and Margaret Evarts.

Possibly of interest to the reader is the fact the Evarts family appear to have a literary tendency. Grandson, Neal, aside from operating a photography shop for thirty years, was a photographer for the Spokane Daily Chronicle in Spokane, Washington, for 12 years, then during the war was aerial photographer in the Aluetian Islands for two years and two years in the South Pacific. He came home with cancer and has been limited since that time, but remained on as correspondent. Neal also suffered two heart attacks in 1976, but still instructs at North Idaho College in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. He still possesses an old suitcase and mementos of his uncle Orin Evarts, son of Lucius Evarts.

American author Hal G. Evarts, according to the geneology provided, is a descendant of the same Evarts family. Born in Kansas wheat belt, his father soon moved



Hal Evarts.

to a remote ranch near Cody, Wyoming. Hal Evarts' father wrote for a pastime also, being a natural born story-teller, travelling extensively to gather material for his fiction and non-fiction appearing in many large magazines.

Hal Evarts followed his father's footsteps in the writing field, travelling extensively also. Since 1940, he has been a full time free-lance writer, holding jobs for the screen in Hollywood, Toronto Star and San Fransisco Chronicle. He has published over 100 magazine stories and 25 novels. Childrens books by the author are, "Smugglers Road, The Talking Mountain, Treasure River, Pegleg Mystery and Big Foot". As busy as Hal Evarts must be, he found time to write to Evelyn McNeil who noticed his name attached to a story she had read, and wrote to ask if he could be related to our Lucius Evarts. Evidently he feels he is, and so it would seem we can well be proud of our districts' namesake and descendants.

EVARTS POST OFFICE

Time marches on: after 66 years of continuous mail service, history was made at Evarts on Monday June 30, 1969, when Mr. George Horn, district supervisor of the Red Deer postal district and postmaster of Red Deer, officially closed out the Evarts Post Office. This was the closing out of a service known and remembered by many old-timers and pioneers.

AN EXCERPT FROM AN ARTICLE WRITTEN BY PIONEER, Mr. Alec Stewart: Quote — "We didn't have a post office in 1902, so a list of the settlers was made up and left in Forhan's store and whoever went to Red Deer, took the list along and brought out all the mail. At Forhan's the papers were dumped on the counter and we all picked our own. The letters were kept in a separate box. Registered letters were kept in Red Deer until the owners came for them.

In 1903 we thought we should have a post office, so a petition was circulated and Mr. Luther Evarts wrote a letter to Ottawa. Some wanted to call the Post Office "Medicine Valley" some thought "Braton", as the store was on the Braton land, but Ottawa made the decision and named it after Mr. Evarts, as he had written the letters. Oswald Forhan was the first postmaster and hauled the mail out from Red Deer. When Mr. Forhan wanted to go to his homestead, Jack Robinson from London, Ontario took over as postmaster" unquote.

Jack Robinson sold out to Maddison and he remained postmaster until his store burnt in 1922. At this



June 30, 1969 — Closing of Evarts Post Office. Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Staniforth, Mr. and Mrs. David McNeil, Mr. and Mrs. Alf Reeves, Mrs. Dora Hillman, John and Kay Watson, Clyde Stauffer,

Bill Thomas, Eddie Giselman.
July 2, 1969 — rural mail delivery — Tracey Watson.



Mail bound for Evarts, Alf Reeves.

time a Miss H. Hume became postmistress and operated from Braton's house. She carried this on from the fall of 1922 until the end of the school term in June 1923. It was then that Mr. Andrew Stewart became postmaster. He was originally from county of Wigtown, Scotland, but had resided in Prince Rupert, British Columbia and Burnt Lake district and lived on a farm bought by Mrs. Walker and family, in the east end of the district, presently owned by Mr. Harry Durward. Mr. Stewart ran the store and post office until his death in 1945. Their son and his wife, Jim and Gladys and also their daughter Isobel Stewart kept the business until the spring of 1946, when Mr. and Mrs. Tom McNally of Major, Saskatchewan, bought the store and took over the post office. Mr. and Mrs. Bob Langer of Eckville followed the McNalleys. Then came Mr. and Mrs. Ritstock in 1948 and they sold to Mr. and Mrs. Alf Reeves of Esterhazy, Saskatchewan. They and their three children came to Evarts, in February 1949, after a six-month stay in Kelowna, British Columbia and have taken care of the post office since that time.

A group of interested old and young timers gathered at the store and post office for the official closing. Many pictures were taken and much reminiscing was done.

Evarts district is now being served daily from the Eckville Post office on the R.R. No. 3 and started on July 2, 1969. Mrs. Jean McNeil was the first letter-carrier. Other district residents are being served presently by R.R. No. 1, Sylvan Lake and R. R. No. 1, Marker-ville, three times a week.

EVARTS SCHOOL

Because the Medicine River ran through our district in the low lying area where the site for the village was beginning to materialize, as we suppose, the reason why "Medicine Valley" seemed to be an appropriate name for the newly formed school district of No. 736. It had become evident by 1902, that a school would be a necessity. Some families had sent their children to school as far away as Calgary, to attend classes.

The first recorded school meeting was held on December 20, 1902 and we have been told the meeting was held at the home of Mr. Sam Braton. Mr. J. W. Watkins was secretary and Mr. W. S. Jealous, chairman. Voters present were Martin Loken, Ed Loken, F. D. Hedrick, Samuel Braton, L. P. Evarts, O. J. Olund, J. W. Watkins and W. S. Jealous. On January 30, 1904, S. Jealous was secretary, Severt Lindelin, chairman and J. W. Watkins was treasurer. The Northwest territories Gazette, volume 19, No. 17, states the school was established on September 8, 1902. The school district at this date comprised of Sections 4,5,6,7,8,9,16,17,18,19,20 and 21, Township 38, Range 2. Also Sections 1,2,11,12,13,14,23 and 24, Township 38, Range 3, W.5. On January 3, 1903, it was decided to borrow 600 dollars for the building of a school house, but from another meeting held September 1903, it would seem prices had escalated or estimates become more realistic, for it was moved and passed, that 1,000 dollars be the sum needed for the purpose. It seemed a reasonable decision to build the school in the village. Here land had been donated by Mr. Sam Braton senior, the village was growing, anticipating the coming of the railway through the town and soon would be the hub of all activity for miles around. According to the late Mrs. Clara Sjare's report, the school was finished by December of 1903, so a party or housewarming was held at that festive season, but classes did not commence until early in the year of 1904. The first teacher was Miss Ada Belle Brown (later Mrs. Jack Killick of Rocky Mountain House). The first pupils were listed as follows: Abbie, Alfred and Leonard Watkins, Jeanette and Jack Howe, David, Maggie and Merritt Braton, Gunda and Julius Fredrickson, Minnie and Etta Lekvold, Julia and Clara Loken, also it was recalled that Annie Olund, Inga Haldorson and one other girl attended.

On November 23, 1908, it was stated in Alberta Gazette, Vol. 4-2 that a change of name for the school district number 736, from Medicine Valley to Evarts, had been made. Again we will say this was an appropriate name, as by now, the village was called Evarts, after the man who was instrumental in getting a post office for the town and also one of those present at the first school meeting in 1902.

In reading the minutes from this time until the last recorded meeting of January 15, 1938, we can sum them up by saying, they consisted chiefly of the business of attending to the mortgage on the school, collecting taxes, letting tenders for wood and the hiring of teachers. A long and varied list of teachers appear, as the years went by, some were hired for only a few months at a time, as the classes to begin with in the early years, were not held regularly, as today. In fact, at times, you may get the impression from the minutes, that the board almost favored closing the school, for such reasons as, I suppose, finances, lack of enrolment and weather. The following list of teachers is submitted, with the hope that we have not omitted anyone. They are as follows: 1903-1905 Miss A. B. Brown (Killick), 1905-1907 Miss Anne McGregor (Forhan), 1907 Miss Beatrice Forhan, 1908 Miss M. Braton, 1908 Miss Charlotte Legge, Miss Annie M. McGuire, W. A. Leavings, 1910 J. B. Branscombe, 1911 H. Luching, J. B. Branscombe, H. McDonald, Miss Malen, Harvey Glebe, Leonard Boucher, Miss Christine



First class Evarts School, 1903, Miss Ada Brown.

Jensen, Miss Kennings (McCallister), Miss Bertheusen, Miss Uchida, Miss Anna Hume, Mr. E. Crummy, Gladys Lindsay, Miss McKean, Miss Carrie Hope, Mrs. J. Learned, Miss B. Sterling, Miss Atzinger, Miss McLagan, Miss Gilbert, L. D. Willing, Mrs. L. Holsworth, Miss Gordon, Miss D. Mannerfeldt (Periche), Mrs. Russell, Mrs. Goedicke, Queenie Ford (Staniforth), Mrs. More, Miss A. Norre (Bramall), Mr. Gibson, Miss Marcia Krause, Mrs. D. Periche. **Note** — Miss Elizabeth Wright, September until closing because of "flu", 1918.

By 1934, it was deemed necessary to build a new school. Plans were laid, and at that time, the new school which was erected was considered modern, heated by coal and wood furnace in the cement basement and indoor septic toilets later were added to the building. It was necessary to borrow money for this venture, and this was done from a former resident of the district, at the time the school was first organized. The board donated the old building to the community, to be used as a hall, which meant it would no longer be necessary for dances, meetings and gatherings to take place in the school building as before. This again would lessen the boards business at meetings, regarding the renting of the building for such purposes, and the problems involved. Trees were planted, a new fence constructed, and a basketball court erected, were some of the major jobs finished on the completion of the new school.

When the school was first opened, it was said by one of the first pupils, that the kids were not always too careful where they played at recess and noon and the school not being fenced, made it a little hard for the teacher to stake out her territory. A little creek ran just below the hill which bordered the grounds to the south. The banks were quite steep, especially the south one, and this made ideal sledding and sliding in the winter. Special permission was sometimes needed, depending on the teachers, to leave the premises. Sometimes after the party got too rough, this privilege would be taken away, so in all, the children tried not to abuse it. Sleds were not always available, and so cardboards, the big coal shovel and many other improvisations were made. The creek was always a big attraction in the spring of the year when it ran full of water, drained from the entire east and north mile or more. By the time the water reached the school, it was more like a river to us, and many a boat and bottle were floated down to the river some rods away. In the summer, the creek ran dry and so it was always a pleasure to play among the willow clumps that dotted the bottom of the little creek bed. Crocus, violets, buttercups and lots of dandelion and Indian paint-brush were picked in season by the girls. Gophers were numerous around the school yard and many a drowning campaign ensued in the spring when water was obtainable from puddles and the creek. One very wet gopher would lead a procession of 20 or more children, screaming vengeance, with



1. Evarts School 1917.

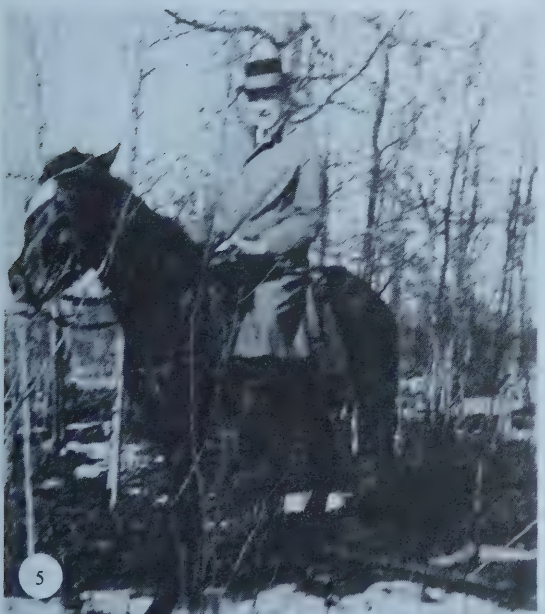
2. Evarts girls. Back — Hilda Johnson, Vanessa Schultz, Thelma Masters. Front — Ella Budvarson, Betty McPherson, Hannah Eymundson, Christine Budvarson.

3. 1916

4. group outside Evarts School — 1914. Three boys in front at right — Macklin brothers, Bert Hussey at top, at back in centre — Mabel Loken, John Frew in centre behind boy in white shirt. Kenneth Jackson at left. Others unknown.

5. Hilda Johnson, Neva Welsh, Betty McPherson, Thelma Masters.

6. Evarts school 1914 — L.-R. — Barney Eymundson reading book, Kenneth Jackson standing behind bookcase, Macklin boy kneeling, Owen Kelly other side of bookcase, Marion Hussey standing at left at blackboard, Mabel Loken at right. John Frew — standing, Macklin boy writing at desk.



1. Mr. Gibson's class — 1954.

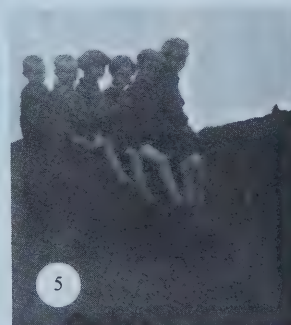
2. L.-R. — Kenneth Jackson, Roscoe Schultz, Willie McPherson, Myron Neilsen, Merle Neilsen, Allen Schultz. Front — Marvin Schultz, Johnny Robertson, Eston Holsworth, Douglas Masters, Dickie Wolff, Jack Murphy, Laurel Neilsen — old school in background.

3. School group. Back row l.-r. Charlie Pollock, Ettie Ardell, Edith Caton, Cleve Larratt, Ed Lighbown, Alan Anderson, Fraser Larratt, Harold Tennant. Second row — Viola Larratt, Alice Tennant, Ethel Caton, Amie Horner, Lillian Lightbown. Seated — Arthur Larratt, and Frank Ardell, Harry Brooks and Tom Horner — 1930.

4. School boys on roof — Evarts.

5. Leonard Boucher — teacher.

6. Evarts school group, 1919.



1. 1938.
2. 1936.
3. 1945.
4. 1940.

5. Room for one more.
6. John Frew — 1914.
7. Skating party.
8. 1932.



1. Evarts school — mother's day — 1957.
 2. Group at Hillman's picnic grounds.
 3. Evarts War Workers club — 1941.
 4. Skating party — Staniforth's.

5. Skating party at Medicine River.
 6. War Workers.
 7. Skating party — 1943.



1. Community centre.
2. Evarts school — 1946.
3. Evarts school — 1959.
4. Evarts school — 1939.
5. Beginners — Mr. Gibson.

6. Back — Margaret Anderson, Wilson Durward, Freddie Anderson, Margaret May Anderson, Jane Nah-Bexie, Marilyn Ostercamp, Wally Ostercamp, Barbara McGowan, Ardis McGowan, Sheila Reeves. Front — Don Periche, Stewart Watson, Dennis Ostercamp, Shirley Periche, Douglas McGowan, Barbara McGowan, Conrad Kathol, Bev Hillman, Gary Hillman, Peter Nah Bexie.
7. Clifford Hansen.

clubs and ball-bats. Snaring the poor creatures was done by the boys who would lay several yards from the hole with a long binder twine looped around the hole, then they terrified the girls by chasing them with a live gopher on a string. Meadow larks were numerous around the school yard, because there were not many trees, making an ideal environment, and their song often floated in to us through an open window from a nearby fence post. On one occasion, this writer recalls, in the early thirties, when every pupil in the school was lined up at the back, to receive their just number of strappings by the teacher who had been helped by one informer to make her findings. (Sorry kids, this writer always told her mother everything.) The children, including the informer, had spent one whole glorious noon hour eating lunch and having a good splash in the river. A few wet clothes and hair styles were also the incriminating evidence. My wish today is, that we could recall and relive those carefree days again — even to the strappings and “staying in” after hours for spelling and arithmetic mistakes.

Going back to another facility at the school, which was the barn, to house the horses taken to school. We can only suppose the livery barn was made use of for children's ponies, prior to the board building a stable in 1915. The lumber for the stable, came to seventy dollars and the labor was twenty-four dollars. In 1925, an addition was built on the barn. Mr. W. R. Beiraugel was awarded the contract for the work.

Another building on the school grounds was constructed in 1924, with the tender going to W. R. Beiraugel for fifty-five dollars, for the building of a two-roomed teacherage, the material costing three hundred dollars to Atlas Lumber and seventeen dollars and twenty-two cents to A. L. Stewart. On February 25, 1933, a special meeting of the board was held to discuss the matter of the teacher's lodgings, owing to the teacherage being burned.

Before the teacherage was built, lodgings were found in the hotel and at Mrs. Braton's house mainly. After the fire at the teacherage, the teachers found board and room with Mrs. A. L. Stewart, at the store building. A new teacherage was built in early 1960's and after the closing of the school, was sold to Otto Pohl, Markerville.

The business of the school fair and the hauling of water were two other business items to attend to by the board. The water, for years, was hauled by the pupils, sometimes gratis, sometimes being paid for, from the Braton well, which to the children seemed a good distance away. For many years, the Braton well seemed to be the only one at Evarts with suitable water for drinking purposes. Later, a well was drilled on the grounds.

Aside from the first board members, who consisted of Mr. Watkins, Mr. Jealous, Severt Lindelin and Samuel Braton, the board consisted of several tax-payers throughout the years. Perhaps we may be out of order in mentioning some names in particular, but one slate of officers were in office for many years, and I feel this warrants mentioning the names of Mr. Wm. Robertson, Mr. J. Watson, Mr. J. Hillman and Mr. A. Staniforth. The board at all times found a real pride in carrying on the duties assigned to them, were always ready for new ideas to improve the management of the school and often volunteered their services, installing repairing and cleaning the property. The community as a whole took great

pride in the school, so it was little wonder that on January 15, 1938, at the annual meeting, that a firm protest was given, to the proposal of a large school division being formed. This however came to be in January, 1938, with forming of the Rocky Mountain School Division 15. Later the Evarts school was included in the Red Deer School division No. 35, December 31, 1954. Further, on January 1, 1963, Red Deer Division became County of Red Deer, No. 23.

One more move was evident. Hardly any rural schools were left in the Red Deer School Division by the 1950's. Evarts was one of them. In September, 1959, with enrollment of only 13 pupils, the Divisional board saw fit to move the Evarts class to Benalto. Another meeting of outright opposition was called. It was a very well planned meeting. Attendance was screened at the door and it was found necessary to give proof as to the right to vote. One amusing thing that happened that evening was that by mistake, some officials from the Divisional office were ordered off the premises. Evarts had evaded several other attempts at centralization but this time they failed and the school at Evarts closed its doors for the last time, only two weeks after opening that fall. So ended another chapter in the story of Evarts, however this is not where the story ends, as the school, after being purchased by the U.F.A. Co-op Local for the purpose of holding the building in the district for community use, finally leased the building for a long-term to the Community Club who are today responsible for up-keep and repair. Renovations go on periodically as well as the gas installation recently. Of course, electricity was installed at the time it became available in Evarts.

It was felt by some in the district, that Christmas could not be faced without the school Christmas concert, when the school was closed. So started an annual event which lasted until the present, in the form of an annual Christmas supper and concert. This event, we don't suppose will ever be any different. The turkey, candy, oranges, candy bags, plays, carol singing and Santa, all take each one of us back to the days when we were young and took our turn on the stage. As the years slip away, different actors, chairmen and cooks keep appearing on the scene, but the same feeling of togetherness will always remain the same. It is our prayer we never lose it.

EVARTS HOTEL

Driving through Evarts today, it is rather hard to visualize a hotel on the southwest corner as you turn off the road to go to the Evarts Community Centre. Nothing but a few good stories is left of our hotel. We are told it was at one time painted white with green trim. The saloon had a long mahogany bar, where a variety of men came and went. We are told the downstairs was devoted to a teacher's room, kitchen (one time barber shop), and dining room. The original hotel consisted of seven or more bedrooms, plus other lower floor rooms. The post office for a time was in the hotel. There was a Chinese cook, at one time, also. An addition of seven rooms later made the hotel even more spacious. The owners were numerous. Those owners who come to mind are Mr. Parker, who named the hotel, “Parkerhouse”, Mr. Lawrence, Mrs. Braton, Brock, Millward, Mr. Killick and Mr. Wadson. The hotel is said to have been called the “Maple Leaf” hotel also. The reason for so many

changes in ownership is unknown, probably it was hard to keep order, as we have been told that drunkenness and disorderly conduct was most evident about the hotel premises. One event stands clearly in our mind when we recall the story of a boisterous pair becoming involved in a heated argument in the saloon. At the height of the argument, one man pulled a gun and not being too steady on his feet, took aim and fired at random as the other side of the argument made a rather unsteady exit and honest endeavor to get down the road on foot to the east, as fast as possible. Possibly his weaving path from one side of the road to the other and the pursuers gun waving considerably from left to right, proved to be the factor in nothing more serious happening that day. Another incident with more serious consequences happened when men from both railway gangs happened to be in the bar at the same time. As we know, there was a great deal of competition between both railroad companies and perhaps this competitive spirit had rubbed off on the men, but it ended up a fighting brawl in the street with many men involved. One report was nearly one hundred — as one man expressed it — “Bodies were lying everywhere”. I suppose to one frightened little boy standing very close to his dad it seemed like one hundred men or even more. An amusing happening, was when one man to the west of Evarts, over indulged and needed help to get seated on his trusty horse. Everything was going well, as the man gave the horse the reins and proceeded home. One thing the horse did wrong however. He had been tied many hours without a drink at the hotel, and when he got to the river with a loose rein, decided to have a good drink. When he went down the bank and lowered his head to drink, his master lost his seat and tumbled over his head into the water himself. Freighters came through from Red Deer and Innisfail on their way to Rocky Mountain House and vice versa, — Evarts Hotel was a favorite stopping place. There was a livery barn at the back, a shed for the loaded wagons, plenty to eat and drink, as well as companionship of fellow freighters. Fancy hitching rails made from tree stumps with iron rings bolted into them lined the east and north side of the hotel.

Later, when prohibition was passed, the hotel business in Evarts crumbled, especially with the railroad's being built to the north, roads becoming more accessible and freighters no longer required, explains why the hotel was finally abandoned. An auction sale was held and all the hotel supplies and anything saleable was put on the block. The old hotel stood vacant for several years. Windows became broken, doors swung in the wind, tumble weeds blew in the door. The school children delighted in playing hide-and-go-seek in the numerous rooms. It seems sad, that a building with so many memories, was eventually torn down and hauled away to the Neilsen farm, to be used as salvage.

No evidence is there today on the lot where the hotel stood, of it ever being there, but you can still stand on the spot, shut your eyes and listen. If you're lucky, you can hear and see it all once again.

Note: Mrs. Jack Clausen, in 1905, was operating the cuisine department of the Maple Leaf hotel at Evarts.

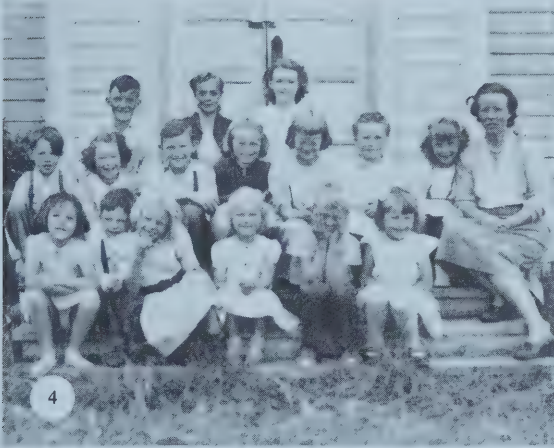
EVARTS CHURCH

Seventy years ago, the church at Evarts was built. Church services were held in various homes in the early years and later in the school (built in 1903). Two missionaries, **Mr. Bailey** and **Mr. Scott**, held services around these years. In 1906, an Irish minister, **Mr. Woods** approached the people of the district with regards to building a new church. In 1907, the church was completed, the lumber being sawn locally by the Smith Brothers and donated by them. An organ was bought by them also and dedicated to the “Glory of God”, at the same time, the church was dedicated. **Reverend W. G. Brown**, of Red Deer, was guest speaker on this occasion. Miss M. Braton was the organist. Mrs. Braton and Mrs. C. Jackson, were very active in the church at this time. Ministers were of different faiths as was their congregation. After **Reverend Woods** left, **Reverend White** and **Reverend Burwash** followed. **Mr. Caverhill**, an Anglican student, held services for some time in the early years of the first war, but later joined the armed services and was reported “killed in action” later.

In the later part of the “war years”, **Mr. W. G. McKechnie** took services. **Mr. McKechnie** was blind, but his handicap seemed to be no hindrance in his work. Many times, he came on the **C.N.R.** from Rocky Mountain House (where he lived with his brother and family), and got off at Elspeth station and walked to different homes in the area. Children were fascinated by his ability in shaving himself with a straight razor, cutting kindling with a sharp knife and other accomplishments. On October 20, 1918, an organizational meeting was held in the church to “try to raise sufficient money to keep **Mr. McKechnie**”. **Mr. S. E. McKee** was chairman, **Mr. J. W. Slack**, secretary for this meeting. At this time an invitation was extended to the Swedish Mission Church (Burnt Lake) to “unite with the Evarts congregation in worship”, or to make use of the church for their services.

A board was formed at this meeting and the following men were appointed as directors; **Mr. S. E. McKee**, chairman; **R. L. Tennant**, secretary-treasurer; **Mr. J. H. Robinson**, **J. Warwick**, **W. Burdick**, **A. McPherson**, **P. Cameron**, **A. D. McConnell** and **J. W. Slack**.

In 1920, **Mr. McKechnie** was ordained as a Presbyterian minister. **Mr. W. G. Brown** also officiated at this service. **Mr. McKechnie** was minister until 1926. Church was not held if the temperature dropped below ten degrees Fahrenheit. In 1927, **Mr. Frank Jackson**, donated the exterior paint for the church. In 1927, **Mr. O. E. Mann** was the minister, living at Sylvan Lake. While minister at Evarts, **Mr. Mann** was ordained. **Mr. and Mrs. O. E. Mann** before coming to Evarts, were missionaries on the Queen Charlotte Islands. Very often **Mr. Mann** walked out from Sylvan Lake to take the service at Evarts. **Mr. H. Mann**, their son, was with the Imperial Bank at Sylvan Lake for some time. From the minute books, it is stated a Harvest Home Supper was held in the church. In 1928, **Mr. Dingle**, was minister for almost a year, followed by the **Reverend R. S. Stevens**, who stayed as a minister for nine years. He was followed by **Reverend R. Sinclair** from 1938 to 1940. Next came **Reverend Hart**, from Ontario, and returned there in 1943. **Reverend Mr. Fraser** took services one summer. At this time services were held at Centerville and of course Sylvan Lake. These arrangements continued for a



1. 1922 — Evarts Ladies Aid. Back — Mrs. Duncan, Mrs. J. Holsworth, Mrs. P. Cameron, Mrs. Ed Mannerfeldt. Front — Mrs. Jackson, Mrs. McKee, Mrs. Wood, Mrs. Slack, Miss Hume, Mrs. Maddison, Mrs. Robertson, Mrs. William Holsworth.
2. Mrs. William Robertson and Mrs. Grace Hall — 1947.
3. Mrs. John Watson, Mrs. Alex Duncan — 1947.
4. Mrs. Roulston with Sunday school class, 1950.

5. Evarts church group — Rev. McKecknie in centre.
6. Ladies Aid. L.-R. — Ada McNeil, Dora Hillman, Norma Stewart, Mrs. Picketts, Mrs. Sinclair, Mrs. Wells, Mrs. Stewart — late thirties.
7. Evarts Church — Presbyterian.
8. Mrs. Learned, Mrs. Watson and Mrs. Douglas Walker.

number of years. **Reverend I. P. MacSween** was minister, leaving in 1950 for Strathcona Presbyterian Church, Edmonton and is still there. **Reverend W. MacLeod's** transportation (when the roads and weather permitted) was a motorcycle. Following Mr. MacLeod, the **Reverend T. E. Roulston** was here from 1952-55. Both Mr. and Mrs. Roulston were musicians and the district enjoyed fine music while they were here. Reverend Roulston, went to Olds in 1955, living there until his death in 1959. **Reverend John Yoos** came in 1955 and still serves as minister to Benalto and Sylvan Lake.

Three weddings were performed at the church. Isabelle Stewart was married to Gordon MacLaren in 1933, Jean Staniforth to William Smith in 1948 and Margaret Bramall to Otto Herrmann in 1955.

The church was closed in 1961. While worship is not held in our church now, the old building still stands as a monument to the many ministers who labored under many difficulties, to the members of boards who worked hard to ensure the carrying on of the church, and to the people who came to church while finances were very meager, and roads and weather anything but good. Still the influence of our church lingers on.

EVARTS SUNDAY SCHOOL ENTERTAINMENT

On Friday evening, December 28, in the early '30's, the Evarts Sunday School held a concert and Christmas Tree in the Evarts Church. On account of the cold weather, the programme was somewhat shortened and the crowd not large. Those that braved the cold, considered the concert supper and tree well worth the effort. The following programme was very well rendered:

Opening Hymn — Joy to the World, by the Sunday School; Dialogue by Laurel and Roy Neilsen; Monologue by Wilson Cameron; Recitation by Clara Holsworth; Recitation by Eston Holsworth; Hymn — As With Gladness, by the Sunday School; Recitation by Billy Robertson; Recitation by Johnny Holsworth; Monologue by Alice Cameron; Recitation by Velma Trimble; Recitation by Ethel Holsworth; Trio by Alice Cameron, Sarah Burdick and Isabelle Stewart; Recitation by Sarah Burdick; Hymn Holy Night, by Bessie Burdick and Ethel Holsworth alto, Elsie McKee and Sarah Burdick soprano. Santa arrived on time and made the little folks glad with stockings and presents. After a bounteous supper, the happy gathering broke up after singing "Blest Be the Tide That Binds" and "God Save the King".

The Sunday School were very sorry that Reverend McKecknie, owing to sickness, was not able to be at the glad occasion.

The Evarts Sunday school have just completed a very successful year and would welcome any new members in the coming year.

MEDICINE VALLEY CEMETERY COMPANY

This cemetery was registered in 1905 and located on S.E. 16-38-3-W5. It has remained under the same name ever since. The early residents of our district referred to this, as the Evarts cemetery, it being three and one half miles west of the Evarts townsite. Many of our early pioneers are laid to rest here. Each summer, visitors come to our district wishing to visit this cemetery as their

grandfathers, grandmothers, parents or some relatives grave is there.

TELEPHONE AT EVARTS

As everyone will agree, the telephone is a wonderful invention, and in the early days even more so, as other modes of communication were very slow and painful at times. I am sure it was the highlight of the year in 1909, when a direct line from Red Deer to Evarts was established. This meant a quick contact with Red Deer and we can be sure it was most appreciated. Much later in 1916, the Medicine Valley Telephone company was organized and the line built in 1917. Two wires shared the same poles in some instances and represented the two rural lines. J. H. Robinson in 1920, was the central exchange. A charge of 25 cents was levied on calls after eight p.m. after a meeting in November, 1920. This company consisted of the east and the west lines. We have more particulars on the west line, which was line No. 1 but it is known that in 1927, William Holsworth was president on the east line. Following this year, William Robertson took the chair as secretary treasurer and Arthur Staniforth became a long time president. Mrs. Robertson did all the book work for many years. When Mrs. William Robertson passed away, her son John took the job of secretary until the line was taken over by the government. This line 2 was called the Evarts Mutual Telephone company.

On the line 1, which was the west line, a few items of interest may be in order, Here the president was Adam McPherson and the secretary was Scott Hastie. In 1921, John Watson became president and for a short time Mr. Maddison was secretary, but left the district shortly after and Alex Duncan took on his duty until his leaving and passed it on to Lloyd McNeil. On Mr. Watson's retiring, his son Kay took the job. Line 1 was called the Diamond Valley Telephone company.

A motion at a meeting in 1923, stated that each subscriber should pay 25 cents each for the secretary's expenses, making a payment of two dollars and fifty cents. In June 1925, Billy Woof's share on the line was offered for sale at five dollars, a far cry from one hundred dollars asked on line 2 in 1946. It is learned that line 2 levied ten cents per member per year to cover postage and fifty cents to cover charges on the C.P.R. phone. Fines of one dollar were imposed on any member failing to attend a duly called meeting.

For sometime a rather unique automatic switchboard with the equipment housed at Benalto served the area. On July 7, 1964, this R.C.X. equipment was replaced by a manually operated switchboard. This seemed to be more satisfactory. Later on March 5, 1967, we joined the ranks of direct dialing. The new telephone building in Eckville was brought into service and we were supplied with seven digit numbers. Another red-letter day came in November 1970, when this area went underground. The method used for plowing in the 12 tube co-axial cable was a first in North America and other major companies throughout North America were expecting to adopt this revolutionary technique in the summer of 1971.

THE EVARTS LADIES AID

May 14, 1922 was the date chosen by a group of women in the Evarts district to form a Women's Mission

Circle. Women of all faiths formed this group, but all worked as a unit to work for the betterment of the church. In 1929, it is recorded "that Mrs. William Robertson wished to resign as secretary-treasurer". For a few years the Women's Mission Circle did not function but in 1934, the ladies met at Mrs. H. Jackson's to re-organize and were to be known as the Evarts Ladies Aid. Mrs. John Watson was appointed president and Mrs. D. McNeil as secretary-treasurer. At one time, the ladies decided to hold a bean supper, but the protests of husbands and family changed those plans — the usual chicken supper was held. During the war years, our Aid was disbanded but the group re-organized in 1946. Two of the original members, Mrs. William Robertson and Mrs. P. Cameron joined at this time. As the Ladies Aid did not have any money to function with, a chicken supper was held. Admission was, adults — 35 cents; students — 25 cents. The total receipts from this supper were \$99.47 — expenses for the supper were \$7.34. In 1950, a turkey supper was held and proceeds were \$192.04, less expenses of \$32.03, including four turkeys from Nellie Watson for \$12.18. Our admission had been raised to 60 cents for adults, 35 cents for students and 25 cents for six to twelve years. One supper we ran out of chicken. Mrs. Bud Hanna rushed home and came back with some jars of canned, fried wild duck. This delicious donation saved the day. Our annual suppers were held Thanksgiving Monday. The members may not have rejoiced as they worked all weekend. In those days the food was all donated, and the dishes used were brought from home. In 1953, the supper was cancelled, "as there were too few members". In addition to the suppers, bazaars, concerts and bake sales were held. As elsewhere, our Ladies Aid made up the deficit on the minister's salary, bought Sunday School supplies, made donations to the Vacation Bible School, supplied the paint and storm and screen windows for the church, bought a stove and organ one year, hymn books and Bibles and supported the Women's Missionary Society and the British, Foreign Bible Society. For a few years the ladies held a Sunday School picnic also. After the church was disbanded the Ladies Aid held a few meetings, but on September 27, 1968, the bank account was closed and the amount in the account was given to the Benalto Sunday School.

A little poem which has been recorded and saved through the years stemmed from one of the Burns Nights at Evarts.

On Burns' nicht tae Evarts toon
 The Scotch they cam frae miles aroon
 Baith auld and young withoot a froon
 Tae hae a spree at Evarts.
 The Stewart trig in kilt ae gran
 Is cheftain o oor Hielen clan
 Like Bruce on Galloways hills he ran
 Far far awa frae Evarts
 The fine auld Scottish sangs were sung
 In the braid auld farrant mither tongue
 And readins gleg frae auld and young
 That nicht in Evarts.
 The Christie fou o' sang and story
 Wi pride spak oot imortal glory
 And a a owed they werna sorry
 They cam that nicht tae Evarts

When Major Spence the pipes did blaw
 The fleur seen filled wi ane and a
 E'en Cuttie Sark wid coont but sma
 Tae dance that nicht at Evarts
 Six stalwart cheels the drones did skirl
 Maist a aroon the hoose did whirl
 Weel, antrants lugs micht fairly birrel
 That glorious nicht at Evarts
 Auld Scottish hissies weel did please
 Wi shortbread scones eat cakes and cheese
 A spread O Lord ane seldom sees
 Except in Evarts.
 A ye wha claim green Caledon
 The blood that tings at soond o drone
 Neer miss a chance when there is on
 A splore at Evarts.

EVARTS TWENTY FOURTH OF MAY DAY

Early in the history of Evarts possibly before 1905, Evarts became noted far and wide for the 24th of May celebrations. A great deal of preparation went into this event. Make shift corrals and pens for stock were erected on the flats on the S.W. 17-38-2-5 just one-half mile east of the village of Evarts. Flag-poles were raised for the Americans as well as the Canadians. On one occasion the Canadian flag was shot down with a sure-aimed gun which I understand resulted in a reasonable fine to the party involved. Poles were put in the ground and canvas pulled around for a concession booth with light poles and green branches on top for shade. The race track was measured out. I imagine the Evarts hotel put in a supply of good-cheer. The ladies made ready, gallons of ice-cream and lemonade, along with many other goodies. It was a known fact, the Evarts Sports Day usually heralded a good spring rain. The hillside on this location is full of springs, and in those days especially it was always wet and muddy under foot. This did not dampen the spirits however.

The children for miles around waited for this big picnic, as foot-races and many other contests were held for them. The main attraction I gather, was the baseball tournament. I am told the American influence in the Evarts district made a far superior ball-team to the surrounding districts. They helped train the locals, and practiced almost like professionals in preparation of the coming big day. Some of the players mentioned were Sam and Merritt Braton, Jack Robinson, Smith Brothers, Watkins Brothers, and a school teacher by the name of Mr. Glebe. Red Deer team often came out, as well as other contestants and was known to have been cleaned on some occassions. As described by one old-timer, it was just like a huge farmer's picnic.

The horse races were run with a great deal of enthusiasm and the usual bets were made on the side. Local ponies — no pedigrees — just Indian ponies and cayuses — but this fact did not lessen the enjoyment of the races.

The local cowboys had their fun as well. Some names mentioned to me were Pat and Matt Hoven, John Chatwood, Louis Johnson, and Vic Sonne. One amusing incident in respect to the rodeo end of the day happened when John Chatwood decided to ride one of the horses. This was all voluntary — no prizes involved. If you



1. Ralph Jarvis.
2. Hillman's ball park.
3. Chuckwagon race — picnic — 1949.
4. Picnic — L.-R. — Harry Durward, Clifford Hillman, Lloyd McNeil, George Phillips.
5. L.-R. — Clifford Hillman, Alf Leithead, Johnny Craig, Ralph Jarvis, Louis Stoyka, Louis Kathol — 1949.

6. Bob and Grant Brown, Stewart Watson, 1964.
7. Benalto Stampede — 1924.
8. Benalto Stampede — early days.
9. Foot racing — Benalto Stampede.

thought that you may be able to put on a good show without losing your seat, you chose your horse and gave it a try. Well John didn't have a good pair of cowboy boots, so he borrowed a pair, which were at least a couple of sizes too large. He chose a bronc he couldn't cope with and was promptly dismounted, but to the amusement of all there, both boots stayed firmly in the stirrups and rode it out very well. Vic Sonne suffered embarrassment at the first rodeo in Benalto when his name was announced and he made a grand entry, only to slide off the horses neck when he put his head down to eat grass — bucking to this little white pony was too hard work, when grass was there to eat. Poor Vic, being all braced for bucking just wasn't prepared for the short stop and bend over.

Mrs. Simpson, a newcomer to the district, was rather amazed at the proceedings of the day at Evarts, and chose to go home early with her husband, who had to leave early to get the mail delivered. She recalled later encountering three fights on the way home in the half-mile. This was common procedure at Evarts, for then, it seemed the fist was used to establish leadership.

The school children fared very well and always made it to school early the following day of the Sports. All the ice-cream, lemonade etcetera was left for the children at the school, which proved to be a very enjoyable treat.

With the growth of Benalto to the north, the coming of the railroad in 1914, the Evarts Sports Day lost it's popularity. The Red Deer Advocate in 1910 estimated the crowd at Evarts at 400 people. So it was in 1917 the same type of entertainment came into being at Benalto, but with the rowdiness probably a bit modified. The people in Evarts however still longed for their community minded picnic and since the early 1920's have enjoyed a lovely picnic the last day of school-sometimes on the school-grounds but later at the Hillman's on the Medicine River. Through the years, our end of June picnic has remained the same. We now have a ball-park, still hold children's contests, and races, the odd honey-moon race, and egg throwing contest. We still look forward from one year to the next to the picnic at Evarts.

BENALTO FAIR AND STAMPEDE

The first fair and stampede was held in 1917 and the fair itself was held in a tent on the grounds which now is the Benalto Agricultural and Booster grounds.

The fair consisted of all types of fancy work, cooking, butter, smoked hams and bacon, canned meats and all things our ancestors had to do to keep perishable produce from one season to the next. All types of livestock were shown, horses, cattle, sheep, swine, geese, ducks, turkeys and chickens.

The stampede was run by local men and all stock were from local farmers who also were the competitors.

Many of these dedicated men and women were from Evarts, we feel these few remarks should be entered in Evarts history. This year will be the 60th anniversary of this society.

Past Presidents from Evarts: Wm. Holsworth, P. N. Cameron-Honorary Member, Jack McBride, Clyde Stauffer-Honorary Member, Lloyd McNeil and Murray Stauffer.

Past Stampede Managers: Clyde Stauffer, Dewey Nielson, Louis Kathol.

THE MEDICINE RIVER

The history of Evarts would not be complete without mention of the Medicine River which runs diagonally across the present Evarts district. In the early days it gave the settlers added difficulties in reaching the land west of it. A ford was made two miles south of Evarts in the early days, if the river was low the settlers could cross, if the water was high, a boat had to be used. The first bridge across the Medicine near Evarts was built about 1902, and it was a wooden one. Timbers had been gathered the winter before, but the spring flood scattered them down stream. It took boats, teams of horses and men to recover them, and so the construction of the bridge proceeded. Mr. Content was the man that was in charge of the construction.

The Medicine River was used by the Great West Lumber Company of Red Deer to drive logs down from the Lobstick and Horseguard area. The river provided trapping for the settlers. It was and is good for fishing. It has been used for many skating parties in the winter, canoeing and boating in the summer, as well as the water enthusiasts who take a dip in it.

A quote from an article written by R. H. Edgar — One of the outstanding events that took place at the Evarts bridge was the flood which happened, I believe, in 1907 when the Medicine River was swollen to such an extent that an energetic homesteader built a boat and ferried, at a small fee, the settlers from the west side to the east, so they could purchase groceries at the Evarts store. When the waters fell, Gerry Macdonnell was among the first to try driving across. He got over the man river on to the bridge, but there was still quite a body of water on the flat on the east side of the bridge. His wagon box floated off, taking the front bolster and king pin with it, letting his wagon come apart, however, he stayed with it until he rescued the whole works, even the pin. End of quote.

It was in 1910 that two young boys lost their lives in the river just upstream from the bridge. Earl and Clifford, sons of Mr. and Mrs. Cyrus Jackson and Merritt Braton went in for a swim, Earl and Clifford ran into difficulties and drowned.

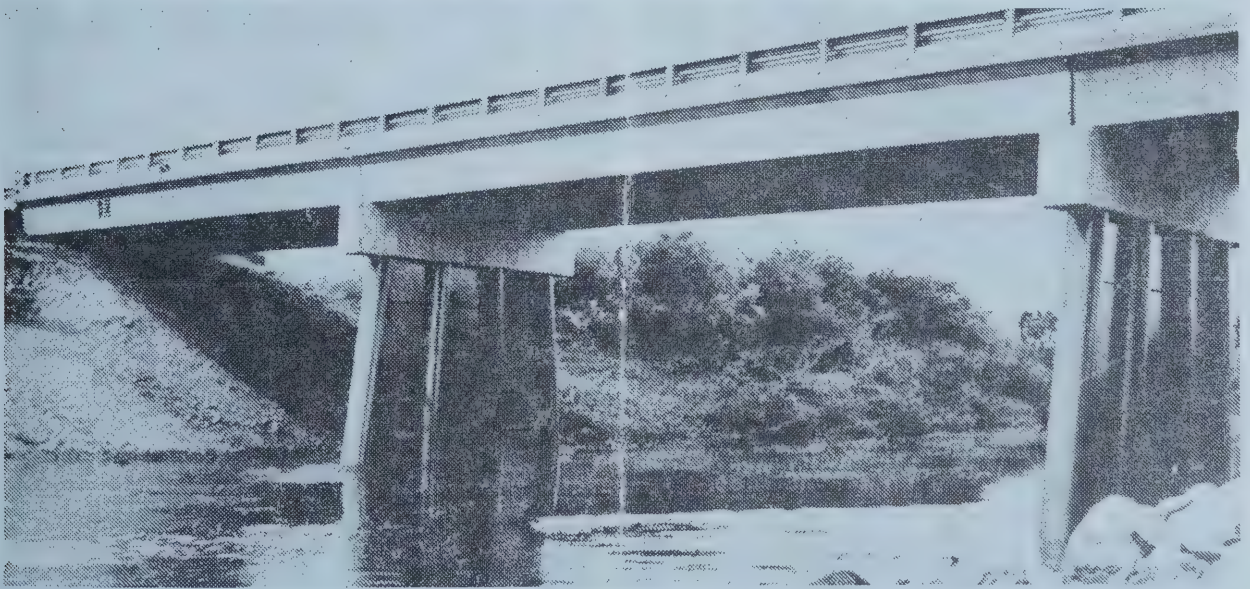
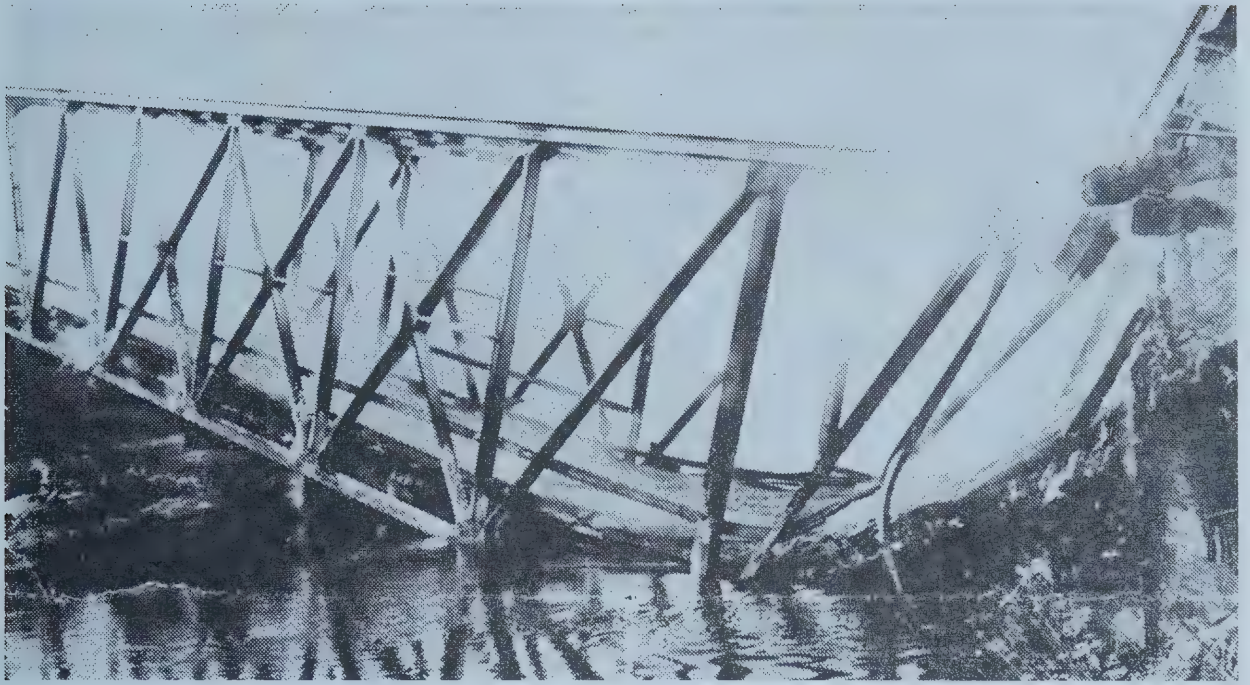
Because of extreme flood conditions in the spring of 1943, April 12, Jim Leithead of the Happy Hill district drown in the Medicine while attempting to cross the swollen waters to go to Evarts for supplies. The flood waters were threatening each spring, however there were some summers when the river would be so high late in July, around Benalto Stampede time, that some people wouldn't cross, and those that did, took a chance at guessing about the edge of the grade. In the early 1960's a couple of men attempted to go west of Evarts, when the river was in spring break-up, big huge chunks of ice were floating with the water. The truck went off the grade with the front end and the men were marooned there. They yelled and called and finally someone at the store heard their shouts for help. Some young men of the district endangered their own lives by taking a boat out in the river and after sometime brought the two men safely in.

The old Medicine can boast of three bridges in the district, one on the township line, two miles south of Evarts, one west of Evarts and the other on the range line about a mile north of Evarts west corner.



Medicine in flood. Children on bridge — 1919 — L.-R. — Neva Welsh, Ethel Holsworth, Hilda Johnson, Clara Holsworth, Laurel

Neilsen, Kenneth Jackson (standing), Joe Welsh, Merle and Myron Neilson. Centre right — note truck in water.



Evarts Medicine River bridges — old and new. (Courtesy of Red Deer Advocate.)

Prior to the new bridge built on the rangeline the road from Benalto made a turn to the west, then crossed the bridge (the pilings are still visible there), and angled up along the southwest side of the river and slowly climbed up to the top of the hill. Many times in the winter this area gave trouble, it would become icy and so slippery. The road was straightened in 1963 when a new grade was built in the fall, the bridge was put in during the winter and so was ready for use in the spring of 1964. The other bridge on the township line was brought in from Rocky Mountain House in pieces, a bridge crew moved in by Clifford Hillmans in 1970 and worked, so the bridge was opened in 1971.

The steel bridge west of Evarts was constructed in 1935 or 36, replacing the wooden one that had served for over 30 years. In May 1969, the bridge timbers of the steel bridge caught fire and burnt allowing the bridge frame to collapse into the river. This was replaced within a year by an opened topped bridge, which is presently there.

EVARTS CURLING CLUB NOTES

An organizational meeting was held at Evarts in 1927 to form a curling club. John Watson was elected President, William Robertson secretary and Arthur Staniforth vice-president. It was the first curling rink west of Red Deer.

The curling rink was made by ten shareholders namely: Arthur Staniforth, John Watson, William Robertson, Andy Stewart, Harvey Jackson, Ed Medin, Bob Black, Peter Cameron, Simon Lund and Dewey Nielsen. The shares were sold at 30 dollars each. Ed Medin built for his share, he and Simon Lund were the main carpenters.

Andy Stewart had a set of curling rocks he had brought from Scotland, his initials were chiseled in the rock. John Watson had two sets (one pair he had won in a raffle). The club had to borrow several rocks from the Red Deer curling rink.

Funds were needed the first year, so a box social was held, and the boxes were sold by Frank Jenkins. The first prize box was won by Mrs. John Watson, her box was a replica of a curling rink made of plywood and made by her neighbor Ed Medin. The evening was a great success. Ample water was a problem, so the curling club and Andy Stewart shared the costs of a well to be drilled.

Curling commenced in January 1929.

Mrs. Andy Stewart assisted by Mrs. Peter Cameron put on a supper for the Curling club members and workers who had given their time to get it finished.

Something in the water, made it difficult to make ice, so snow was melted and put on the ice for finishing. River water was hauled up and used at times. For two years the water was hauled from John Staniforths, to the curling rink with a stone-boat. Each year an ice maker was appointed to care for the one sheet of ice. Lights for the curling rink were run from Andy Stewart's delco plant. Curling carried on in the district for 12 years, but discontinued in 1941. The war had taken some of the young people into the services and the curling rink building needed considerable work on it. Each year following the bonspiels, Andy Stewart would throw a skating party and all the kids in the district would come. Mr. Stewart supplied the chocolate bars for all.

The waiting room part of the rink is still standing in Peter Stewarts yard and used for a garage.

John Staniforth was the last president and Lloyd Wells the secretary.

EVARTS COMMUNITY CLUB — by Bev. Staniforth

The Evarts Community Club was organized in April, 1949, with thirteen ladies as charter members: Mrs. Annie Anderson, Mrs. James Gowans, Mrs. Alice Durward, Mrs. Jean Reeves, Mrs. Lily Sjare, Mrs. Peggy Bramall, Mrs. Grace Hall, Miss Janet Staniforth, Mrs. Alwilda Staniforth, Mrs. Nellie Watson, Mrs. Doreen Hillman, Mrs. John Hillman and Mrs. Annie Kathol. The purpose of the club was to be community work and after twenty-seven years, this aim is still being carried on.

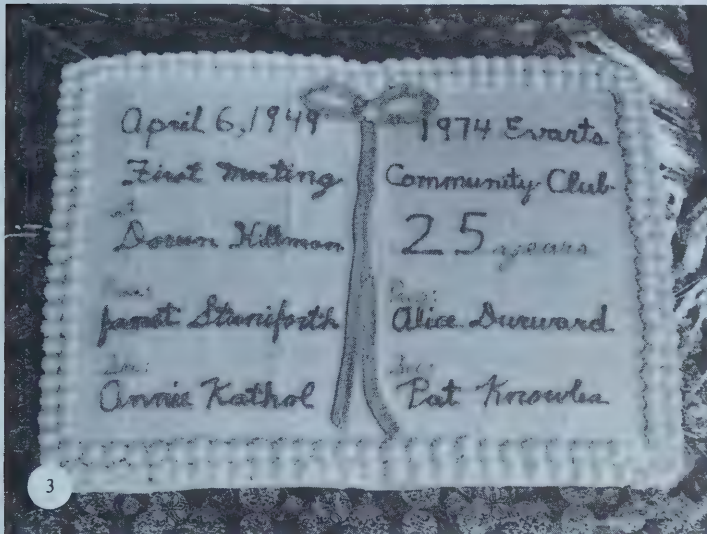
Meetings were held over the years, in the homes of the members with as many as thirty paid-up members in a year and is still one of the most active community clubs in the district. Over the years, donations have been made to the organizations such as, Red Cross, Cancer Society, Tuberculosis Fund, Salvation Army, United Fund, Polio, Cerebral Palsy, Retarded Children Funds, Etcetra. Financial help, as well as donations of clothing were made to needy in Korea, Formosa, European flood victims, United Nations appeal for children and World Vision. Local organizations and victims of fire, flood and famine were helped through the years. We made financial donations to the local hospital at Eckville and helped sew what was needed. Similar aid was given to the Senior Citizen's Lodges.

Money making, of course, has always been a necessity but was often fun and certainly kept the club active and interested. There were the usual bake sales, bingos, card parties, dances, raffles, films, suppers, catering for sales, weddings and anniversaries and the unusual amateur and variety programs, auctions, white elephant sales and travelling baskets. The honesty of club members was tested when they donated a penny an inch for their waist measurement or for each year of their age.

The community was kept intact by such gatherings as the community picnic the last day of school, where food was enjoyed and children competed in races. Ball games were the highlight of the evening and visiting with neighbors you hadn't seen all spring was enjoyed. In 1955, a community Christmas supper was organized and has been a tradition since. After the closing of the Evarts school in 1959, a small Christmas concert was put on by the young people in the community in conjunction with the supper, and has been greatly enjoyed through the years.

Twenty-fifth and fiftieth anniversaries have been milestones recognized by the club members and have helped community couples celebrate their special days. Bridal showers have been organized by the Community Club and the sick visited and presented with a small gift. Those leaving the community have been remembered also.

We sponsored a garden club and junior sewing club and in the later years the 4-H Clothing Club. In 1966, we had a banquet and awards night for the Clothing Club and we have continued to honor them with this evening. In 1950, a scholarship was set up between Centerville, Marianne, Happy Hill and Evarts for the Grade Nine student from one of these districts obtaining the highest



1. 1974. Back — Ada McNeil, Nellie Watson, Peggy Bramall, Ardis Bramall, Beatrice Philips, Sen Robertson, Alwilda Staniforth, Dorothy Periche, Evelyn Johansen, June Allen. Front — Ellen Sigurdson, Pat Knowles, Muriel and Shelly Bramall, Mary Chilibeck, Annie Anderson, Eileen Hanna, Alice Durward, Marge Proehl, Evelyn McNeil.

2. Christmas party 1975 — community club.
3. Anniversary cake by Eileen Hanna.
4. Christmas party — 1965 — community club.
5. Birthday party — 70 years — Mrs. Hall — 1961.
6. Bon Voyage party — Mrs. Peter Cameron to Scotland.

marks. The participating districts dwindled until Evarts alone carries a scholarship since 1972. It was brought to our attention that some Deer Home patients were without families or friends, so in 1963, we adopted two ladies and have remembered them on birthdays and Christmas since.

Our learning abilities have been kept active by offering courses such as St. John Ambulance, sewing, furniture refinishing, upholstery, talks on numerous subjects by our Home Economists, and demonstrations on hobbies by talented friends. We also took interest in subjects such as the White Paper and renaming of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police issues and wrote to our members of parliament.

Community activities over the years were carried on in the old Evarts school or hall. In 1965, we leased the abandoned building, which had been the new school house, from the Evarts U.F.A. Local and proceeded to remodel it for community purposes. A small kitchen was set up complete with dishes, cutlery and coffee urn, and gradually the tables and benches made by the men in the community in 1963, were replaced with stacking chairs and tables. A gas furnace was installed, and the basement repaired with the aid of government and recreational grants, so we now have a comfortable building.

We are proud of the activities of our club and may we continue to work for the community.

Presidents through the years have been: Janet Staniforth, Doreen Hillman, Alice Durward, Queenie Staniforth, Evelyn Johannson, Ardis Bramall, Bev Staniforth, Nellie Watson, Evie Hambly, Evelyn McNeil, and Ellen Sigurdson.

Secretaries were: Annie Kathol, Bev Staniforth, Evelyn McNeil, Alice Durward, Alwilda Staniforth, Queenie Staniforth, Mary Chilibeck, Doreen Hillman, Evie Hambly, Pat Knowles and Dorothy Periche.

Remember When —

We served lunch for coyote hunts.

Mrs. Dora Hillman donated coffee urn in 1962.

Scotty Rodgers made a rug for raffle in 1967.

Our lost Santa Claus suit turned up.

In the meantime Mrs. Grace Hall donated a Santa Claus suit.

Gave a tree for Doctor Coppock Memorial in 1953 — replanted in 1967.

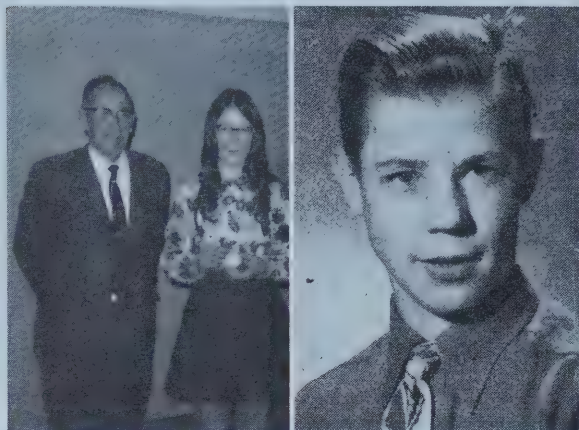
GRADE NINE SCHOLARSHIP

In 1951, the community clubs of Marianne, Centerville, Happy Hill and Evarts, decided to give a 50 dollar scholarship to the grade nine pupil who attained the highest marks in the final departmental exams in June. To look after these arrangements, two ladies from each district were chosen and a scholarship committee was organized.

It was then decided, an evening would be set aside to honor the student who received the award each year. The evening was held in the district where the student to be honored came from.

When the department of education discontinued the departmental exams for grade nine students in 1970, Centerville and Marianne wished to withdraw from this scholarship. Happy Hill remained with Evarts until 1972, when they too decided to withdraw. Since then Evarts

WIN GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S MEDALS



Grade Nine Awards. Marilyn McNeil, Bernard Kathol with Inspector — Harold Hall.

has given the scholarship for grade nine students from their own district.

1951 — Vera Hiens; 1952 — Betty Ann Mannerfeldt; 1953 — Howard Kathol; 1954 — Allison Bramall; 1955 — Laura Wecker; 1956 — Phyllis Erickson; 1957 — Carmen Staudinger; 1958 — Elaine Kuores; 1959 — Wilson Durward; 1960 — Gordon Walter; 1961 — Richard Staudinger; 1962 — Richard Brown; 1963 — Angeline Fitch; 1964 — Ronald Chilibeck; 1965 — Bonnie Jean Gowans; 1966 — Terrance Brown; 1967 — Norman Walter; 1968 — Judith Bergstrom; 1969 — Janet Bystrom; 1970 — Marilyn McNeil; 1971 — Ronald McNeil; 1972 — Colleen Bramall; 1973 — No contestants; 1974 — Leora Hanna; 1975 — Darryl Bramall; 1976 — Ricky Stauffer.

BENALTO 4-H BEEF CLUB

The Benalto 4-H beef club of which **Evarts** has played a large part, started about the year 1943 and has carried on consecutively with yearly memberships adding up to over 700.

The members learn how to select and judge beef cattle by becoming familiar with the principles and approved practices of feeding, care and management.

Each member must take an active part at meetings, feed his calf through the year and exhibit it on Achievement Day.

Members learn how to properly conduct a meeting and the keeping of monthly feed records and progress on his or her calf.

Activities held within our club have been; weighing-in days, tours, community projects, judging competitions, field trips, Calgary bull sale, Edmonton Spring Bull sale, parliament buildings, Olds Agricultural school, social activities, lectures, films, making rope halters, 4-H curling bonspiels, swimming and public speaking.

In 1948-49, calf insurance was started and has continued annually ever since.

The calf weights have varied from the beginning of the project as not exceeding five hundred pounds at the beginning of the project year to the present weigh-in. At present all 4-H calves have to weigh in at not under 450 pounds and not over 650 pounds with a 25 pounds



Benalto Beef Calf Club members and parents at the Calgary Bull Sale, 1950. JoAnne Reighley, Howard Kathol, Roy Hoven, Robbie McBride, Ron Reighley, Paul Jensen, Murray Stauffer, Bernard Erickson, Allen Hoven, Ron Budvarson, Lou McBride, Lorraine Erickson, Delovce Linneberg, Bernard Kathol, LaVern Hambly,

Rosina Akitt, Ralph Jarvis, Leonard Phelps, Art Jarvis, Ron Ball. Adults; left to right — Mrs. Ella Reighley, Mrs. Helen Ball, Mrs. Gertrude Hambly, Mr. Bill Phelps, Doug Ball, Steve Reighley, Mrs. Dollie Stauffer, Clyde Stauffer, Ralph Hambly.

tolerance, based on the first Saturday of November with a one pound per day added tolerance for a later weigh-in date and that all calves be dehorned and castrated by May 1st of achievement year to qualify for the show and sale.

The Benalto 4-H beef club boasts to the fact that it started the first curling bonspiel in Alberta in 1953-54, that was strictly for 4-H members and thus has made it an annual event for several years.

The club has never had a sponsor at any time so it has always financed on its own through bonspiel profits and donations received from individuals and business men from this part of central Alberta.

Evarts, can well be proud of her record of achievement from members in the 4-H club. However, such would not have been possible without the help and co-operation of many firms, organization and individuals.

The club is most appreciative to the leaders who have given so much of their time and valuable experience.

Leaders over the years have been:

Jack McBride 1947; Clyde Stauffer 1948-1957; Martin Stenvig 1957-58; Stanie Budvarson 1958-1961; Murray Stauffer 1961-1964; Bill Darlington 1964-1969, 1970-1972; Glen Walker 1969-1970; Bud McBride 1972-1977.

Our club also wishes to recognize the fact that through close relationship with the Rocky Mountain House 4-H club, practically all the years past, the two clubs have joined together for their final achievement day; thus making them so successful. Mr. Peter Stewart, the United Grain Growers Elevator agent in Benalto, has been chief weigh-in master for every show and sale held in Benalto. Mr. Ralph Loughheed, General Merchant has always taken the responsibility of awarding our prizes and cheques. Mr. Gordon Ross, District Agriculturist from Rocky Mountain House (now Lethbridge) has been sale clerk and bookkeeper for our final achievement days for many years.

In the beginning of the Benalto 4-H club, Rocky Mountain House has always participated with us, now we have four clubs, Rocky, Gilby 4-H, Hazel Dell and Benalto. Each district hosting the achievement day and sale.

Our achievement day and sale has always been held in June, the Thursday before Farmers Day. Murray Stauffer has been chairman of the Medicine Valley 4-H sales for several years and Terry Hambly has been the official ring man for many years.

A free lunch for everyone is provided by the 4-H families on achievement day.

Auctioneer's from the area donate their time for the annual calf sale. One of these being Clyde Stauffer.

Highlight, other than achievement day, is the awards night and barbeque held the latter part of June, where members receive their cheques and prizes.

To all the people, the Benalto 4-H beef club wish to express their gratitude of "Thanks" for all the help through the past and present years; for without it the club could not have existed.

Note: Many of our young people belong to the Happy Hill Horse club which was organized in 1970.

EVARTS 4-H CLOTHING AND CRAFTS CLUB

Provincial Girls Club Supervisor, Mrs. Kit Robinson, organized the "Happy Hill and Craig Merry Makers Women's Institute Sewing and Garden Club" in 1950. The Alberta Department of Agriculture sponsored 4-H Clubs. The W.I. and Alberta Wheat Pool were co-sponsors. Miss Smith, the first Home Economist, declared the Club name was much too long and changed it to "Evarts".

In the early years there was a Junior Club for members 9 to 12 years which was under the W.I. program. Four girls went to Club week at Olds or Vermilion each year — two for 4-H, and two for W.I. During the early years, a half day of school time was allowed for meetings. For the boys, there was a woodworking Club under the leadership of Royal Raymond and Ingvar Erickson, and a ball club coached by Royal Raymond and later by Hal Craig. The first leaders of the girls Club were Mrs. Royal Raymond, Mrs. Percy Buckle, Mrs. Reinhold Jobs, Mrs. Elmer Hillman and Mrs. Kay Watson.

No Club was organized in 1962-63 and 1963-64; so the present Club year of 1976-77 is the Club's twenty-fourth year of operation. Through the years the Club has had the wonderful support of many ladies. Mrs. Clarence Ostercamp and Miss Marilyn McNeil each were Club Leaders for one year. Those who have served as Club Leaders, Assistant Leaders for several years or more include: Mrs. Clifford Hillman, Mrs. R. A. Staniforth, Mrs. Lloyd McNeil, Mrs. Dennis Bramall, Mrs. Harry Periche, Mrs. Frank Sigurdson, Mrs. Walter Hanna, Mrs. Jack Knowles, Mrs. George Stephen. Mrs. Dennis Bramall has received a ten year 4-H Leadership Award Certificate; a fifteen year 4-H Leadership Award Certificate came to Mrs. Lloyd McNeil from the Canadian Council on 4-H Clubs.

The Evarts Community Club has generously sponsored the Evarts 4-H Club by allowing free use of Evarts Community Centre for 4-H meetings, socials, workshops and Achievement Nights. Also, the Evarts Community Club Ladies host a much appreciated Annual 4-H Awards Night Banquet in late May for the Club members and their mothers. At each Banquet the Evarts Ladies have presented each member with an engraved coffee spoon. Also much appreciated are the ladies of the community and surrounding area who, through the years, have so willingly attended club meetings to demonstrate various sewing techniques and crafts and given talks of special interest to the girls.

The club officially changed the name to "Evarts 4-H Clothing and Crafts" in October, 1971, and is a multi-

project club offering a choice of either one or both "Clothing" and "Crafts" projects.

To date, yearly memberships adds up to 301.

Laura Wecker and Sharon Raymond won first and second prizes in a sewing competition in Los Angeles, California during 1957.

In 1968 Marilyn McNeil placed third in the Provincial Clothing Project Book Competition. Marilyn won the 4-H Inter-Provincial Award Trip to Newfoundland in 1972. In 1974 Marilyn was awarded the Canadian National 4-H Scholarship for Alberta and return air travel to Toronto to receive this at the Canadian National Exhibition.

The many activities of the Evarts 4-H Clothing and Crafts Club keep members, leaders and 4-H families very busy! Besides learning how to sew and/or make beautiful handicrafts, the girls learn how to conduct a business meeting and keep project book records. There are many interesting facets to the clothing project such as etiquette; correct care and laundering of clothing; wardrobe planning; buymanship; good grooming and modelling.

Hosting 4-H inter-provincial award winners for a few days of their two-week visit in our province is a wonderful opportunity to make new friends from far away provinces. In 1974 the Walter Hanna family hosted the 4-H provincial award winner from Newfoundland; in July, 1976 the Lloyd McNeil family hosted the 4-H provincial award winner from Prince Edward Island for four days.

Over the years the Club has been active with Picnics, Swimming, Parties at Red Deer; trips to the Ice Capades and Heritage Park; Pot-Luck Suppers, Teas, 4-H Rallies and Workshops in Red Deer, Penhold and Lacombe. In the 1967 Centennial Year Evarts Community Club joined the girls in entering a float at Benalto Fair and Stampede Parade and at Sylvan Lake.

A Community project is undertaken each year. Sometimes this has been a donation of books or toys for the Children's Ward at Eckville Hospital. In recent years the girls have enjoyed putting on bingos at Sylvan Lake Lodge.

Many Club members have enjoyed the 4-H Charter Bus Exchange trips to visit 4-H members and their families in Manitoba, Saskatchewan, British Columbia, California and Nebraska, U.S.A. and then hosting 4-H members from these areas in return.

Public Speaking is an important part of each Club year with local Club "Speak Offs" in February; winners going on to the Spruceview 4-H Zone Public Speaking Competition in March. Leaders stress that every 4-H Club member who **tries** public speaking is a "winner", no matter what the official placing is in the judges list, as the more times anyone **tries** public speaking, the better a public speaker that person will be!

Junior leadership projects give older members the opportunity of learning to handle Club leadership responsibilities. Several Evarts 4-H Club Junior Leaders have enjoyed the wonderful learning experience of attending Junior Leaders 4-H Camp at Goldeye Lake.

Former members of the club live near and far away. We leaders, past and present, wish them well and remember sometimes hectic, but always rewarding, hours of "learning to do by doing" with them. We hope that they will always carry high in their hearts the 4-H Pledge



Evarts 4-H Clothing club.

1. 1967

2. 4-H float Benalto Stampede parade 1955.

3. 4-H demonstration Linda Staniforth, Bev Hillman — 1967.

4. First-year members 4-H.

5. 4-H banquet.

6. 1965-66.

7. Achievement Night.

of "head, heart, health and hands to larger service for my club, my community and my country."

EVARTS 4-H GARDEN CLUB

This club was formed May 18, 1951, under the name of Merry Makers Garden Club and was changed to Evarts 4-H Garden Club in 1953, co-sponsored by Alberta Wheat Pool, who supplied the seeds and shrubs to the members. It was an active group of young people interested in gardening. Each member had to plant, care for and harvest their produce. Besides the usual vegetables planted in the garden, they planted, thinned, weeded, hilled, canned or dried broccoli, leeks, parsnips, summer savory, sweet basil and many kinds of flowers. These gardens were judged by District Home Economist or District Agriculturists and a representative of the Wheat Pool, Mr. Rhyerson. An achievement day was held in the fall where their vegetables and flowers were judged and on display. Project books were made each year from information sent out by the Department of Agriculture and additional articles made by members themselves.

Meetings were informative with actual demonstrations conducted in the garden, besides demonstrations given by members which had previously been prepared. Bake sales were held to raise funds.

Always interesting outings were trips to Olds School of Agriculture, Hutterite colony and Banff, to mention a few. August, 1951, following a Club Rally in Red Deer, the members were guests at the Red Deer Fair. They made and entered floats in the Benalto Fair and Stampede, in 1955 they won the honor of first prize.

An efficiency winner would be chosen each year, this member would have a trip to Olds and enjoy 4-H club week.

Leaders of the club were: Mrs. Royal Raymond, Mrs. Percy Buckle, Mrs. R. Jobs, Mrs. Elmer Hillman and Mrs. Charlie Miller. In 1955, Laura Wecker and Sharon Raymond were appointed Junior leaders. Miss Arlene Nelson and Miss Marion Dixon were the Economists.

Garden tours were held each year, the latest being September 11, 1954 (no frost yet). The Junior leaders judged the Evarts and Happy Hill Junior garden club gardens.

In 1956, Sharon Raymond and Laura Wecker represented the Red Deer district at Provincial Judging Competition at Olds and won second.

The Evarts 4-H Garden Club had some very successful years, they won the efficiency award two years in a row, for the Highest General Efficiency in garden clubs in the Red Deer district.

EVARTS JUNIOR GARDEN CLUB

This club consisting of boys and girls, age six to eleven, was organized on May 14, 1955, with leaders, Mrs. Nellie Watson and Mrs. Doreen Hillman. Later it was known as Evarts Ten Makers Club. The club was sponsored by the Evarts Community Club. Membership fees were 25 cents, girls fees were sent to Mrs. Handley, so they could become a Women's Institute group. Boys fees were kept in the club to meet the club's expenses. First year president was Donna Johansson and Dell Johansson was secretary, there were 16 members. Each member was required to have and care for a garden plot, 18 feet by 10 feet, these were judged in the fall.

Demonstrations were given at the meetings on planting, thinning, hilling, etcetera. A tour of the gardens in the fall, with some members of the Evarts 4-H Garden club judging, was an exciting day. Usually a picnic finished the day, mothers, brothers and sisters all enjoyed the garden tour day. Each year, the club would send two girls to Olds Agriculture School for a Women's Institute girls club week. The young people showed a lot of interest in their projects. The boys won prizes for their gardens as well as the girls. An achievement program was held in the hall, with the boys and girls having prepared their garden vegetables and flowers for judging. The club carried on for at least three years, many of these members went on to the 4-H Garden Club. During this time, they took part in the Benalto Stampede parade, carrying their Evarts banner high.

After garden time was over, the girls carried on with a sewing club. Besides sewing, they were taught how to conduct meetings, etiquette, proper posture, etcetera. They had guest speakers at some of their meetings. In the record book, a note was made of a good motto, "Keep your head when you win, and your heart when you lose." The girls held their achievements in conjunction with the Evarts 4-H Clothing Club in the spring of the year. There was also two members of this group who were awarded trips to Olds for Women's Institute week, each year. They held a Valentine Tea at the hall one year, the hall was decorated and the girls wore valentine aprons. Demonstrations were given during this tea. Ruth Wilkes demonstrated cake decorating and Dorothy Periche demonstrated copper and shell work.

CHEVRON STANDARD GAS PLANT — S.E. 21-38-2-W5

In the late 1950's and early 1960's several oil companies started drilling programs in the Sylvan Lake area. Several companies found gas and oil in marketable quantities.

The gas wells were capped and "suspended" as there were no plants to process the gas.

Chevron Standard had several of these wells on suspended status.

The depth of the wells for the most part is more than 7000 feet and the gas is "sweet". This means that there is no sulfur in the gas and it is more easily processed for sale than "sour" gas.

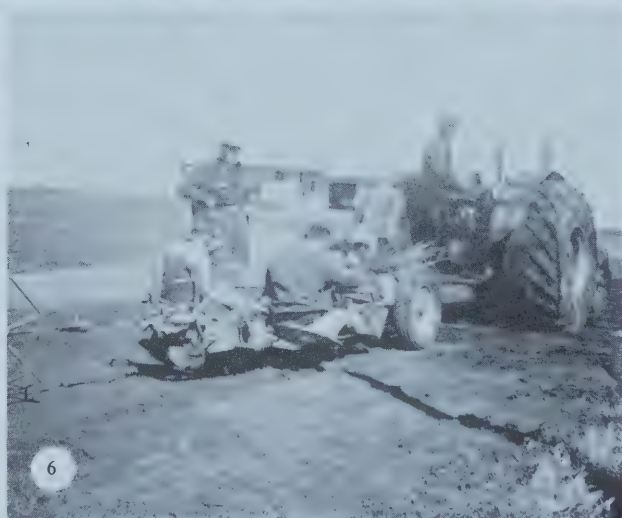
As a matter of interest, one well completed by Chevron was a triple completion. This well could be produced from three zones at one time. This is rarely done because of the complicated procedures involved. The different zones must be kept segregated by law.

In 1963, Chevron, then known as the California Standard Company, organized the Sylvan Lake North Unit with several other companies.

In 1964 a gas plant was built to process the gas and liquids from the "capped" wells.

The original plant separated the gas and liquids by means of a "Propane Refrigeration System". The gas was sold to Trans Canada Pipelines via the Alberta Gas Trunklines. The liquids were stored in tanks and sold to Rangeland Pipelines.

In 1968, this plant was expanded in size and a refrigerated lean oil system was installed to extract propane and butane. These liquids are stored in



1. Garden club members, 1957.
2. Benalto parade — 1955.
3. 1955 — End of a garden tour.

4. Collection of local-grown fruit.
5. Garden club members — 1955.
6. Automatic tree planting — County of Red Deer.

pressurized tanks and disposed of by pipeline the same as the liquid condensate.

There is still a considerable amount of drilling in the area and new wells are being put on production every year.

CALGARY POWER SUB-STATION AT EVARTS

The Benalto Sub-Station is located on N.E. 12-38-3-W5. It was commissioned July 18, 1964, Bob Munson did the switching.

It is the most important Sub-Station in Alberta. Main feeders from all over the province go through it, Wabamun, Sundance, Brazeau and Big Horn Dams.

The Sub-Station is continually being expanded and is expected to be extended both ways.

Of interest, this particular quarter of land N.E. 12-38-3-W5, has the honors of being the first piece of land homesteaded in Township 38-3-W5 by L. P. Evarts, on December 3, 1902, who later named the hamlet of Evarts. A stable and house was located at that time, in almost the same area of the quarter as the Sub-Station is now, some 75 years later.

NEW CENTERVILLE SCHOOL

The New Centerville School was built in 1940, on N.W. 22-37-2-W5. This land was donated by Chris and Frank Sigurdson. The school was built by volunteers with the lumber and other materials brought in from Benalto with horses and wagons.

It wasn't until the following year that cloak rooms were built and siding was put on over the tar paper walls.

Many people will remember the dances, pie socials, box socials, shadow socials, shoe socials and wedding dances, that took place in the school from time to time. When the evening got late, the children usually went to sleep on the tops of the desks which were lined against the walls to make room for the dancers. They had to sleep on the desk tops because, if they were on the seats themselves, they would have been sat on.

The dances usually went on to the wee hours of the mornings, to the familiar music of Fred Olsen and Mrs. Gatzke, just to name a couple. Crowds were always large, even when the roads were blocked with snow. They came walking, on horseback, or by sleigh.

The first teacher in the new school was Miss Inez Gearhart. Some of the others were: Mrs. Beaula Isbister, Mr. Bowles, Mrs. Mary Doran, and Miss June Hillman. Substitute teachers during the war were: Miss Laurel Kirkpatrick and Miss Brownlee.

The New Centerville School was closed in 1955. It was put up for sale and was bought by Frank J. Sigurdson who was a first grade student when the school was opened. Remodelling and additions have made the school into the modern farm home for Frank, his wife, Ellen, and their six children.

REMEMBER WHEN

1891 — First train into Red Deer.

1901 — June 5th, two feet of snow on ground.

1904 — Dressed pork, 6½ cents.

1905 — Farthest west settlers, Edgars of Pitcox (Hespero)

— Mounties frequented the back roads on horseback.

— Before Pitcox in 1905 — nearest post office was Evarts, 12 miles away.

— School board meeting-resolved that present latrine be separated into two parts, 20 feet apart and holes dug.

— courts were held at Evarts, according to a dairy of Clausen brothers, on March 9, 1912, they were summoned to court at Evarts. No evidence was produced against them.

1908 — April 12, Evarts A.F.A. appointed a committee to consider the opening of a co-operative at Evarts store.

1908 — September 13th, the Socialists had a successful picnic at Evarts on Labor day.

1909 — Smith brothers bought out J. H. Robinson at Evarts.

1910 — J. H. Killick bought a store at Evarts.

1911 — An organized gang of horse thieves were reported in the district.

1913 — Eggs 5¢ a dozen, shirts 75 cents, apples 3lbs at 25 cents.

1913 — October 1st arrangements for first annual Sylvan Lake Regetta.

1914 — Sugar went up twice in one day. October up for third time 3 cents.

1914 — Mens coonskin coats for \$15.00, wheat 53¢ a bushel.

1914 — Good team of horses at auction \$480.00.

1914 — First World War started.

1915 — Red Deer's first \$ day

— Steam engine whistle would blow-meant more bundles, hurry, hurry.

1916 — Ford-Touring car \$570.00

1917 — First Benalto Stampede.

— sugar lumps were ¾ inch in size and came in 25 pound bags.

1922 — October 4, Maddisons store burnt.

1924 — Railway cars for settlers and their effects, contained stoves so they could cook their meals and also for heat.

1924 — W. A. More had made provisional arrangements to buy out the Fitch, Tobin, Welliver Company which had a patent on a self-opening and closing gate. Tobin the inventor worked on perpetual motion also.

1924 — July, Evarts Caledonian Society staged a day of Highland Sport at Evarts.

1927 — C.K.C.L. Red Deer radio station 356.9 meters — 840 kilocycles began.

— cards games were on the go-500, whist, King Pedro.

1936 — W. H. Stringer became Secretary-treasurer of Municipal District of Red Deer.

1936 — Travelling "whale" show.

1937 — Eckville Municipal Hospital opened.

1937 — Andy L. Stewart's store and home burnt in August.

1937 — Rocky power line under construction.

1939 — the Royal visit of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth to Alberta.

1939 — October 22-24, threshing halted by blizzard, 12 inches of snow.

1939 — September 1st, World War II began.

1940 — August 19, National Registration day.

1941 — Victory Bonds sales started.

1943 — Food rationing.
 1943 — Well-Baby and Pre-school clinics started.
 1949 — Radio C.K.R.D. Red Deer started.
 1950 — coyote hunts.
 1951 — bad storm, March, highway No. II blocked.
 1953 — Dr. Frank Coppock passed away.
 1953 — the tree for Dr. Coppock memorial was planted in 1953 and replanted in 1967.
 1953 — Benalto Curling rink fire.
 1956 — Harry Brooks won National Barley contest.
 1957 — Eckville Co-op store burnt.
 1958 — Television, December 10.
 1959 — July 26, hailstorm at Evarts, 3.52 inches of rain.
 1962 — Mrs. John Hillman donated coffee urn.
 1963 — Direct District Dialing.
 1967 — Scotty Rogers made a rug for raffle.
 1969 — Evarts post office closed.
 1969 — Evarts bridge burnt, west of Evarts.
 1970 — Eckville bank robbed \$50,000.00.
 1970 — the lost Santa Claus suit turned up!
 1971 — Rabies clinics were being held.
 1972 — Bad storm April 21, wet snow, power off for hours and days.
 1972 — Postal code started.
 1974 — Barley price August \$2.75, oats \$1.60, rape \$10.00.
 1976 — Era of Eaton catalogue ended, started in 1884.
 1976 — Postage 10 cents on ordinary letter.
 1976 — A west district resident applied for his old age pension and sent in his birth certificate along with other necessary documents. A reply came back wanting more information, as his birth certificate stated his birth place at Evarts, Alberta and the officials could not find anything verifying that there was or ever had been an Evarts — Evarts post office closed in 1969, how soon an old name can be forgotten?
 — a loaf of bakers bread was a treat, now a homemade one is!!
 1977 — postage on ordinary letter 12 cents.
 1977 — the highlight this year will be the History Book, "Along the Burnt Lake Trail".

Mr. A. B. Koski had a contract dated December 1, 1905 which stated, he was to make one trip each week to Evarts and carry the mail back to the new post-office in Eckville. He was to receive \$1.70 for each round trip. He later added Leslieville and Pitcox (Hespero) to his list. This mail was also taken from the Evarts office and he got \$3.00 per round trip. Roads were very near impossible at times, also no bridges. The contraption used for carrying the mail the first few years was the front gear of a wagon. The tongue had been taken out and a pair of shafts fitted in. A homemade box on the top completed the carriage.

Previous to the coming of this all important railroad, Evarts was the nearest place where settlers went for flour, salt pork (sow belly, it was ungraciously called) sugar, dried apples, prunes, baking powder and tea. This was augmented by the homesteaders procuring rabbits, partridges and prairie chicken. Eventually when the farmer's wives went into hens of all colors and breeds, meals were served up with eggs in all styles and roast chicken. — well that's still good isn't it. However we were still talking about how the settlers went to Evarts for provisions and

mail. This was quite a trip, common courtesy prompted the homesteader to do various errands for his neighbors and bring the mail, which was an eagerly awaited event.

Do you recall a young man who was teaching school at Evarts and boarding west of the town. He borrowed a saddle horse one Sunday and went calling on a young lady who was teaching school in the Ridgewood district. It took him considerable time to travel the distance, it was pretty late when he arrived back. Everyone had retired for the night, but he felt hungry and went searching for something to eat. He opened the warming oven of the kitchen range and found what he thought was a pudding. He enjoyed every bit of it and retired in a happy frame of mind. But next morning at breakfast, when the husband asked his wife "What became of that linseed poultice I took off the horse's leg and left in the warming oven of the stove?" He did not feel quite so good.

Homesteaders houses were usually mere cabins with a "Home Comfort" (name) wood stove, a homemade table, a few benches and bed usually homemade too with straw ticks for mattresses. The windows were not very large, some measured two panes each 10 x 20 inches. One or two windows were usually felt sufficient. Large families often had to share one and sometimes two rooms. One house in the district still has some of the original ceiling boards used. They were wide boards six to eight and ten inches wide, crudely sawn and then planed by hand. There were two strong men who made their rounds through the district planeing lumber. A large plane with a piece of pipe through the front of it and with a run down the board, one man on either side to pull it along they planed the boards with grooves to resemble two, three or four small, ceiling boards. A roll of tar paper or thick building paper was tacked on the wall to keep the wind out and later when money became more plentiful, wallpaper was proudly used.

UP THROUGH THE YEARS IN LADIES FASHIONS

Ladies Fashion warrants a place in history and in fact the times and spirit of the age can almost be marked by the ladies fashion.

1911-designed hobble skirt; 1912 — the "Le Minaret" Turkish style. 1913 — the "Infanta" style borrowed from Spain. 1914 — World War I broke out and designers designed a tube style that hid the shape of a womans body. Meanwhile women wore hats that were thick with feathers, plumes and butterflies wings. 1919 — After war — the "natural figure" returned and ladies began to wear simple, one piece frocks. Wristwatches were now made for ladies. For a long time women fought for the right to vote and to own property and to be treated as equals with men. When they began winning these rights, they changed their way of dressing. They cut their hair and wore shorter dresses. By 1925 — the hem lines of fashionable ladies dresses were higher than they had ever been in history, it was above the knee. Ladies arms were bare. Hair was cut shingle style or have a "windblown bob". The dresses were like tunics, except no waistline. None of the lines of the body could be seen. The Charleston dance became popular at this time. Women who worked started wearing tailored suits and low-heeled brown shoes. At evening parties, they wore

long dresses with plunging backs, and went swimming in one piece bathing suits or skiing in heavy trousers and sweaters. During 30's hemlines dropped and small brimmed hats were worn. During Second World War-hemlines went up again. Pill box hats were in style, dresses and coats often copied uniform cuts with red, white and blue, popular colors. People began jiving and jitterbugging to jazz. In 1948-hemlines dropped again only a few inches above the ankle. Wide brimmed hats were worn. Colored shoes and purses were selected to match color of dress. This style lasted about ten years at which time "the slim look" arrived in fashion world, at this time hats with high crowns and little or no brims and pointed toed shoes with slim heels were back in style. Skirts went up and up and up. The shocking two piece bathing suit of the 40's was considered modest when "bikini" came out in 1959 and remember the catch little ditty, "Itsy, bitsy, teenie weenie, tiny, Polka, dot, bikini"? Early 60's the poofed (black comb) hair style with the ladies heavily accenting the eyes, dressed in lines similiar to those of 1925. The Twist and its variations, the swim, the monkey crawl and so on was shocking in comparison to the Charleston. Changes in style caught up with the men. Suit coats

shortened and pointed toed shoes worn. When women began wearing slim slacks (tight pants) the men copied this too. 1966 — Ironing their hair on the ironing board. Hemlines in 1966 still going up, with the hint that they might go dangerously high above the knee — Then came the Mini-skirt. The early 70's hemlines went up. Slack suits were in. Elevator shoes for men. Ladies shoes in style with a platform sole or with the pump heel. Clogs were very popular for all ages. Poncho's made the headlines. Long skirts were worn for evening wear. For the western flare cowboy boots have been popular for several years. Hat's have been fading from the fashion scene. Remember 1975, the year for jumpsuits, bib overalls, smock-style pullovers, elasticized belts and scarfs that seem to put the final touch on your outfits? 1976, the layered look started. Hemlines started to drop half way to the ankle. The pointed toe and narrow heel were on the way back. Culottes and Gauchos are a fashion hit. Jeans, Jeans and Jeans are in for the younger generation.


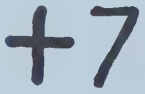

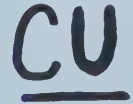



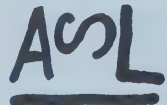
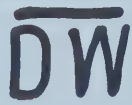



Thank goodness for easy care fabrics like the polyester knit and perma-press. It saves many hours a week for the modern home-maker.



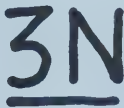
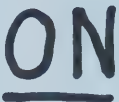


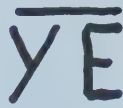


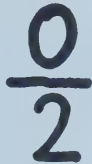
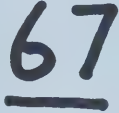

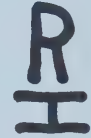
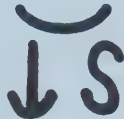




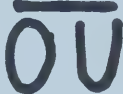














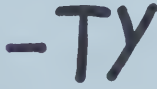
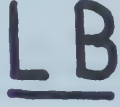


Joe Bull.

HELLO! I'M JOE BULL

The abundant grass on the Evarts Flats immediately made our district ranching country in 1900 and shortly after. Cattle roamed for miles in the unfenced valley, and so it was necessary to brand. Many of these brands, chosen in the pioneer era are still in use in our Evarts district today. I only wish they could find a less painless method of branding, as the brands listed here, represent many painful burns.

 <p>Oliver Smith LR Cattle</p>	 <p>Oliver Smith LTh Horse</p>	 <p>Bernard Dooney LSh</p>	 <p>Joe Rocek LSh</p>	 <p>Michael Dooney LSh</p>	 <p>Abram Huhtala</p>	 <p>Mrs. John Jones RTh</p>
 <p>Andy Stewart</p>	 <p>Billy Woof</p>		 <p>Elmer Loyek</p>		 <p>Stauffer Farms Cattle</p>	 <p>Stauffer Farms Horse</p>

 <p>Adam McPherson</p>	 <p>Ed Medin Simon Lund</p>	 <p>John Nielsen Dewey Nielsen</p>	 <p>Orla W. Nielsen Orla W. Nielsen</p>	 <p>Tony Chilibeck RH</p>	 <p>Arthur Staniforth</p>	 <p>Eymundson Clifford Itillman RH</p>
 <p>David McNeil Lloyd McNeil</p>	 <p>W. E. Bramall RH</p>	 <p>Dennis C. Bramall RH</p>	 <p>Fraser Bramall Horse and Cattle</p>	 <p>Walter Hanna Walter G. Hanna</p>	 <p>Rick Hambly Horse</p>	 <p>Bill Staniforth LH</p>
 <p>Edward Giselman Cai Jensen RR</p>	 <p>Wm. Lemual Wylie Cattle</p>	 <p>Wm. Lemual Wylie Horse</p>	 <p>Orin Wylie Cattle</p>	 <p>Armstrong Bros. Horse LSh</p>	 <p>Jack Robinson Horse LSh</p>	 <p>John Watson Kay Watson</p>
 <p>Jesse Craig early brand Cattle</p>	 <p>Jesse Craig early Horse</p>	 <p>Jesse Craig later</p>	 <p>John R. Craig</p>	 <p>Chester Sands Horse</p>	 <p>Helge Bardal Cattle RR</p>	 <p>Helge Bardal Horse RSh</p>
 <p>Fritz Giselman</p>	 <p>J. P. Anderson</p>	 <p>G. L. Caton RR</p>	 <p>Joseph Jones LSh</p>	 <p>A. M. Stewart RR</p>	 <p>Leslie Walker</p>	 <p>Lightbown Brothers RSh</p>

HONOR ROLL SOME OF THOSE WHO SERVED THEIR COUNTRY

BOER WAR

Jack Murdock
Andy Murdock

WORLD WAR I

William Thomas
Louis Giselman
Stuart McBride
Merritt Braton
Knut Hallingstead

Arthur Staniforth

WORLD WAR II

Killed in action

John Anderson
Wilson Cameron
Bill Anderson
Willie Gowans

In the Services

Jack Munro
Harold Tennant
Ervie Jackson
Carl Anderson
Jenny Gowans
John Gowans
Jimmy Gowans
John Wecker
Mary Gowans
Charlie Anderson

Thomas (Bud) Hanna
Arthur Larrett
Williard Philips
Jerry Murphy
James Murphy
Alex Grant
Bill Robertson
Alice Staniforth
John Staniforth
R. A. (Dood) Staniforth
Jim Stewart
Billy Thomas
Henry Johnson
Anna Ardell
Hilding Engman
Geneve Hanna
Roy Wadson
Ed Lightbown
Jack McNally
In other War work
Betty Gowans
Joan Owens
Leonard Willing
Agnes Gowans
Alwilda Staniforth
Janet Staniforth

WALTER AND JUNE ALLEN — written by June Allen

I was Emily June Garraway, born in Pense, Saskatchewan. My father and his parents came to the Regina Saskatchewan area before Regina existed, in about 1886. They came by Red River cart from Winnipeg, Manitoba. In 1923, we moved to New Osgoode, north of Tisdale, Saskatchewan, where I took my schooling.

Walter's parents came to our area in 1932, from the blown and dried out prairie at Kerrobert, Saskatchewan, which was a 350 mile trip, leaving on November 1, 1932. They made an impressive wagon train. His father took the body off a four cylinder McLaughlin Buick, using the chassis to build a caboose eight by fourteen, complete with wood and coal kitchen stove and chesterfield bed. Another democrat chassis was used with a tent mounted on it. In this, among other things, was 50 chickens. A triple wagon box filled with all the oats harvested from 175 acres was also in this train. This wagon had feed boxes on the sides to feed the horses. So there was the caboose with one team, the feed wagon with one team, a four horse team and wagon, a three horse team and wagon, a saddle horse and 16 cows. After feeding the horses at night, they were turned loose to graze. The cows were milked and then were tired enough to lay down near the wagons. The milk production was not too good nor was the egg production. Mrs. Allen even baked bread on the move, and walked behind helping to herd the cows. It was very icy conditions on the roads and often the horses had to be doubled up to get the loaded wagons up the hills.

Farmers all along the way were most helpful. Going through Saskatoon, the Allen train became stranded on the street car tracks, as the eveners were not on right

somehow and became broken. They travelled over the 25th Street bridge. Walter had three brothers. When the Allens arrived in New Osgoode, they had less than ten dollars cash. They settled about one mile from town and delivered milk to the store by a dog sled, which helped supply them in groceries.

Walter and I were married in 1938. He had been working in the gold mine at Athabasca, but now we moved to Flin Flon, Manitoba, coming back to the farm in the spring to seed the crop.

From here, we made numerous moves. These were as follows; Victoria, British Columbia, New Osgoode, Kirkland Lake, Hamilton, New Osgoode, Burnaby, British Columbia, Penhold, Burnaby, Delburne, Lousana, Blackfalds, Evarts and finally Red Deer.

When we were at Blackfalds and the car hauling was no good, we started looking for land. We were shown the S½ 29-37-2-W5, which was formerly Jack Munro's farm. We moved there in April of 1961 and had a terrible struggle getting started. We bought eight milk cows for a start. In 1963, we switched to beef cattle and raised Exotics. I drove a school bus for seven years, liking it very much.

We had four children. Our first, **Emily Vinabelle**, was born October 28, 1941, at Tisdale, Saskatchewan. On December 15, 1946, **Shirley Beatrice** was born. January 2, 1955, **David Walter** arrived and on June 8, 1956, **Ronald John** followed. All three were born in Burnaby, British Columbia. Vinabelle went to University, taking Education. She was married July 7, 1961, from the Evarts district to Leslie Picketts of Rimbey. Leslie's uncle was Harvey Jackson of the Evarts district. Vinabelle and Les live in Calgary and have two boys and three girls, Kenneth, Cheryl, Rodney, Laurie and June. Les works for Old Dutch Potato Chips. Shirley Beatrice attended Benalto, Composite High, Red Deer and Southern Institute of Technology in Calgary, taking chemical technology. She was sent to a job in Guelph, Ontario, in 1965 where she married in 1967 to Tony D'aurora. They have two girls, Nancy and Teresa and are now living in Hamilton, Ontario. Shirley is a lab technician. Tony works for Hamilton Steel Company. David Walter took his schooling at Benalto, Spruceview and Southern Institute of Technology, taking a surveying course, graduating in 1976. He has since worked for the city of Calgary. Ronald John received his education at Benalto, Spruceview, Red Deer College and University of Edmonton, taking Physical Education and majoring in Biology.

They boys were very active in sports during school days and received some awards. They were also very active in the 4-H Beef Club for six years, taking many prizes for their calves. They also curled in Markerville.

In 1973, after Walter had been laid up for a year, we made a deal on the farm. We finally sold in December 1973. On April 6, 1974, we had a farm auction but didn't sell the cattle. We moved then to Rocky Mountain House, where we lived in our holiday trailer and looked after the cattle until July 1, 1974. We had to go into Red Deer, as Walter had to have an eye operation. In 1975, we sold our basic herd to a rancher in Kettle River Valley, British Columbia, reserving 16 head of Maine Anjou which are still at Benalto. Walter and I have resided in Red Deer since.

CHRIS ANDERSON SR.

Chris Anderson Sr. was born in Biersted, Denmark in 1883. He came to Canada in 1907, homesteading twelve miles south of Seven Persons, Alberta, in 1908. A few acres of land was broken at a time, with a walking plow and horse. When making a trip to Medicine Hat, it usually took a couple of days going by horseback or democrat to Seven Persons, then catching the train to Medicine Hat.

In 1912, he was married to Gonda Van Maarion, who came to Canada from Rotterdam, Holland, with her parents, brothers and sisters in 1910. They raised a family of eight children.

After a succession of dry years and crop failures, the government of that time, supplied two box cars free, to move the belongings of settlers north. The Andersons took advantage of this and moved to Cheddarville, twenty miles south of Rocky Mountain House, in 1925. They lived there for three years, then moved to what was called the Daley farm, eleven miles southwest of Eckville. Then in 1930, they bought a half section of land from Mr. Hepworth, a creamery owner of Red Deer. It was SE 15-38-3-W5, where the eldest son, **Chris Jr.** now lives.

Chris Anderson Sr., retired to Calgary in 1950, where Mrs. Anderson passed away in June 1958. **Mary Ross** lives in Calgary and has one son and one stepdaughter. **Gonda Humble** is living at Crossfield and has one daughter. **John**, who was in the navy, was torpedoed on the Spiknard and lost at sea in the Second World War. **Lillian Rowles**, of Calgary, has one son. **Charley**, who lives in Red Deer, has one son and two daughters. His twin brother, **Bill**, was a fighter pilot and was shot down over Germany in April, 1946. **Carl**, lives in Calgary and works for the city.

NOTE: Mrs. Anderson once said she sometimes regretted making her children work so hard, as they were growing up. In later years the children proved to her in many ways she had not. Also the wealth of mail and parcels Mrs. Anderson received from her sons overseas during the war verified again their love for her.

Mr. Anderson after some years at the Bethany Care Centre in Calgary, passed away March 6, 1977 at the age of 93 years.

CHRIS ANDERSON JR.

Chris Anderson worked the family farm and married Lillian Lightbown in 1942. She was born in Diamond Valley, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Max Lightbown.

Chris had a wood sawing outfit for sixteen years from 1939-1955. It was pulled on a rubber-tired wagon with horses and later with a car, when the roads were better. He used a 1927, 4-cylinder Chevrolet motor to run the saw. He also had a wood-splitting machine which consisted of two large wheels with axe heads welded to them.

Chris served on the Evarts school board for several years. He was secretary for the local United Grain Growers and was also on the board of the Eckville Co-operative Association Limited.

They have one daughter, **Margaret May**, who was born at Eckville in 1944. She attended school at Diamond Valley, Evarts, Benalto and Red Deer Composite and took her stewardess training in Vancouver and Edmonton. She has worked for Pacific Western Airlines for the past nine years. Margaret and her husband, Brian

Newlands have one daughter, Kirsten May and live at Bragg Creek, Alberta.

Richard, was born at Eckville in 1953, and attended school at Evarts, Benalto, Sylvan Lake, Red Deer College and University at Edmonton, where he got his Bachelor of Science degree. He married Pat Snider of Edberg, Alberta and lives at Sylvan Lake. Richard works for the Alberta Hail Project at Red Deer Industrial Airport and Pat teaches school at Sylvan Lake.

JAMES (JIM) ANDERSON

Jim and Annie Anderson came from Foroun, Kincardine, Scotland, to the Evarts District, to work for Mr. John Watson. Jim was born in Ontario but at the age of two, returned to Scotland. In 1947 he came back to Canada. The first home was a two roomed house. Jim and Annie had a small daughter, Margaret, when they came to Evarts. At the first picnic Annie and Margaret attended, a kindly Scotsman offered Margaret a package of "sweets", but she refused them, not knowing what they were. The little girl had been brought up in Scotland during the Second War and candy was almost unheard of.



Jim Anderson family and Roy Bennett.

Margaret attended Evarts school from 1951 - 1958 and later married Roy Bennett. They have two sons and live in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. **Fred** was born in 1954 and attended school locally. He now works for Kay Watson.

Annie was a member of the Evarts Ladies Aid, and a charter member of the Community Club. At present Jim and Annie live at Rocky Mountain House.

JOHN PETER ANDERSON — N.E. 36-37-3-W. 5 — Mrs. Olga Johanson

Dad was born in Vara, Sweden, in 1854. Dad's family was wealthy with servants doing all the work, leaving Dad time to do things he liked. One of his main pleasures was grafting different kinds of trees together and seeing

the results. Another hobby was training bird dogs and fox hounds.

Mother, Matilda Algren, was born in Skara, Sweden, in 1863. She was nine years old when her mother died and the children were put in different homes. The people who raised my mother sent her to the University in Upsala, Sweden. There she received a teacher's certificate.

Dad and Mother had three children, Bertha, Esther and Arthur. Arthur was just a baby when Dad left for America, hoping some day to send for his family. Mother went teaching to support her family. In the United States, Dad filed a homestead in Oklahoma, but the climate was so hot he let it go. He traded his homestead for a team of mules and these he sold for 600 dollars. The next seven years was spent in Wyoming and Montana, where he worked on ranches. He was at a ranch where they rounded up buffalo. This was near the Flat Head Indian Reserve. It was said, that these buffalo were sold to Canada. Anyway, Dad thought it was too dangerous. He tamed wild horses, worked on the railroad and in the copper mines and smelters. About 1893, he went back to Sweden and made plans to emigrate. In 1895, with a new baby, Olga, they sailed for United States of America. The next six years were spent in Minnesota. Here Helga, Carl and Philip were born.

The doctor who attended mother when Helga was born was a veterinarian who had stolen a doctor's certificate. Mother said, "He was the best doctor I ever had."

Letters from relatives by the names of Swan and Albin (Albert) Lingren told us of the wonderful ranch land west of the Medicine River. Plans were made to move again. Dad had been advised to buy the necessary machinery in the States as it was cheaper. This was bought and it, along with some household furniture, was shipped by boxcar to Red Deer. While we were in Minneapolis, Dad took Mom and the older children to see one of the first cars in the city. We came by train to Red Deer during spring break-up, and stayed at the Immigrant House. On one of these days, Bertha, Esther and Arthur were playing on the traffic bridge and it was shaking from the force of the ice-cakes. The three went home. Shortly after, a woman who had seen them playing, came running to tell Mom that the three children had gone out with the bridge. She was greatly relieved to find them at home. The Canadian Pacific Railway bridge was planked and the people crossed over on it. Dad walked approximately 30 miles out to Lingrens. They helped him find some land but he was unable to file a homestead because the land hadn't been surveyed.

He then bought a quarter section of land from the Canadian Pacific Railway in the Shady Nook district at three dollars an acre. We lived in Charlie Johanson's house until our own home was built.

In 1903, he filed a homestead in Evarts and in 1904, we moved to our new home, a two-roomed log house. Ted and Agnes were born here. Arthur also took up homestead land. It was either S.W. or N.W. 12-38-3-W. 5.

In 1905, Helga and I started school in Happy hill with Carl and Philip joining us the next year. There were no roads so we went across fields and through sloughs and the Giselman children joined us when we got to their place. In the summer, we'd wade through the sloughs,

usually making us late for school. My first teacher at Happy Hill was Walter Crockett, a Captain Leavinge and a Miss Dennis were also our teachers.

A better road was built north through Evarts, so we went to Evarts school for three years.

A highlight for the family was their evenings spent with the Giselmans, listening to their gramophone. Our only other close neighbours were the Lingrens.

Dad made two yearly trips to Red Deer. Once in the spring and then in the fall. It was always a two-day trip with a stop over at the Carl Pearson home. These folks were wonderful with the travellers, feeding them and never charging for their services.

A meal in Red Deer was reasonable. Twenty-five cents bought three pork chops, lots of vegetables, pie and coffee. For thirty cents you could buy steak plus all the trimmings.

Finding pasture for the cattle was always a problem. It was also difficult to get a crop that hadn't been frozen, so hay and green feed were our main crops.

In 1910, he sold his land to the Smith Brothers for 2,000 dollars and moved back to Shady Nook. Some day he hoped they could all go back to Sweden. Dad died in 1917 and Mother in 1943.

Our family consisted of: **Bertha, Esther, Olga, Helga, Arthur, Carl and Philip**, when we came to Evarts. While at Evarts, **Agnes and Ted** were born. All of our family are deceased except myself, Olga and Agnes. I still live in the Burnt Lake district. Agnes lives in Red Deer enjoying her retirement. She does a lot of substitute teaching at the River Glen School.

OSCAR ANDERSON

Oscar Anderson came from North Dakota, U.S.A. with the J. W. Watkins family to Evarts, at the turn of the century. He lived with the Watkins family for some time and later took up a homestead west and north of Evarts. He was later married at Evarts. Being an old friend of the Watkins, Alf Watkins remembers as a little boy, staying for several days at a time with Oscar Anderson. One time, knowing that Alf liked gingersnaps, he bought one dollar's worth of them, which was a large bag at that time, and Alf's stay with Oscar was made more enjoyable than ever.

PETER ANDERSON FAMILY

Peter Anderson was born June 7, 1869 at Roskilde, Denmark. He immigrated to Wisconsin in 1888, later homesteading at Rugby, North Dakota.

Marie Paulson was born in Copenhagen, Denmark in 1877. She first came to North Dakota in 1904, and returned to Denmark for a year and then came back to North Dakota and married Peter Anderson. In 1910 they moved to Irvine, Alberta and homesteaded nine miles north of town, living in a tent until they built a house. They had to haul their water nine miles for their stock and household, until they found water and dug a well. In 1924, the family moved to Benalto, Alberta and farmed the John Simpson farm directly north of town. Later the Anderson's farmed the John Holsworth place S.E. 20-38-2-W5.

Mrs. Anderson passed away in 1936, and Peter passed away in 1956. There were six children. **Christina**



Mr. and Mrs. Pete Anderson.



Clifford, Harry, Anna, Elmer, Peter (80th birthday), Christina Anderson.

married Curtis Hoover and resides in Edmonton. **Anna** married Sanford Johnson of New Norway, where they live on a farm east of Wetaskiwin. **Albert** passed away in 1938. **Elmer** married Annelle Loken (deceased) from Sylvan Lake, he has retired and lives in Calgary. **Clifford** married and had three children, now living in British Columbia. **Harry** married Isabelle MacDonald and live in Mission, British Columbia.

JOY ARCHER — Section 6-38-2-5

In the summer of 1960, my brother, Frank Gallant, called me from Canada, and wanted me to fly to Calgary Alberta, to meet him. He was looking for a farm to buy. I was immediately interested, so I boarded a plane from Odessa, Texas at 7.30 A.M. and arrived at Calgary at 7.20 P.M. The sun was still shining, but by the time we had finished our dinner, the sun had set, but it was still

very light. I felt a bit disappointed because I wanted to see the countryside, but to my surprise and delight, the twilight held, and I was able to see most everything along the way, driving from Calgary to Sylvan Lake, even though it was maybe 11.00 P.M. by the time we arrived at the camp. My brother and family were camping at Sylvan Lake. We all went to bed, and I slept for a while, and woke up. It was daylight! I tried to be still, and not rouse anyone else, but I was very eager to see all I could of Canada. When I checked my watch, I could not believe it was only 3.00 A.M. When I awoke again the sun was shining. I hurriedly got out of bed and dressed, ready to explore Canada. I thought I must have missed half the morning! I looked at my watch, and discovered it was not yet 7.00 A.M. Remember that I had just come from Texas, where we don't have the long days and short nights that you have. The contrast between Texas and Alberta was, and still is very interesting to me.

My first days in Alberta were very exciting. We spent every day looking at farms to buy. Frank had found the Island Ranch before I arrived, and took me the first day to look at it. We looked at many others, but always came back to look again at the Island Ranch, until finally decided that was it. By this time, I had fallen in love with Canada and the people.

We signed the papers, and put up honest money to buy the Island Ranch, and drove back to Texas. We were tired, but excited with anticipation of our new life on a Canadian farm. We had agreed to return by April first, 1961, to pick up our option.

It was a long winter, but finally March arrived. I was very busy preparing to move to Canada. Frank came with the truck and a trailer, and we started loading. I soon saw there wasn't enough room. I refused to discard anything, so I went and bought a two-wheeled trailer, and fixed my car to pull it. We were finally on our way. After four tiring days and nights, we arrived in Red Deer at two-thirty A.M., March 28, 1961.

After signing all the legal papers, the farm was finally ours! The McGowans were still there, but they made us welcome, and we stayed on at the farm with them until they could get moved out, which took about a week. Then came the period of settling in, getting acquainted with the neighbors, having coffee in the afternoons. It was quite different from the way we do things in Texas. Going to farm sales, buying equipment etcetera, to farm with, and numerous other things kept us busy. All of this was new to me, and I found it very interesting, sometimes flusterating and tiring, but at long last, we could start to work.

We heard that a neighbor was selling his dairy herd, so Frank told me to go there and buy a milk cow, as his wife Connie and the children were coming soon, and we would need milk for them. I was faced with the chore of buying a cow. I was to go alone and I knew nothing about milk cows or how to bid on one, but Maxine Ostercamp came to my rescue, and went with me. We looked at the cows and saw several possibilities. In view of the fact that I had never bought anything at an auction, and had not met Mr. Stauffer, the auctioneer, I thought I should make him notice me, so I asked him if he planned to bring the cows out of the barn to sell them. He apparently thought my Texas drawl was funny, so he mimicked me. Maxine Ostercamp told him he should be careful, as I

was his new neighbor! That was the beginning of a close and lasting friendship between Stauffer's and me. The auction proceeded, and I bought a cow, which presented us with twin heifer calves on Christmas Day. Meantime, I was also getting acquainted with the neighbors. Everyone was very friendly, helpful, and hospitable to me, as well as kind. Everything was so new and strange to me, as I'm sure there were many times when it took kindness on their part to excuse my ignorance. By this time the ground was beginning to be warm enough to start planting the garden. Of course I started planting things that we grew in Texas and the neighbors would shake their heads and tell me that they felt sure those things wouldn't do any good. However, I had planted them, and there was nothing to do but wait and see. I had beginners luck. It was a long hot summer for Alberta, and everything grew and grew. I had the biggest Hubbard squash and pumpkins I had ever seen. I never did manage to give away all of them. The strawberries were great, and I picked raspberries until I didn't know what to do with them. We don't have raspberries in Texas, so I didn't know how to can them. The ones I canned were not very good. When I started wondering why mine were not as good as the neighbors, I learned that they were careful to keep the sandy ones separate. While I was learning about raspberries, I was also learning to drive the truck, after a fashion, and the tractor. I also learned to swath and rake hay, use the milking machine (we had bought more milk cows) and many other things, such as enjoy Deenie's black currant jelly, and to make Christmas pudding. So went my first summer in the Evarts community.

Harvest was over, when the first snow of the season fell, and who slides in the ditch but me! Fortunately, Cliff was with me, and with his help, I was able to drive myself out. I felt lucky indeed to have had someone with me, but the next day, I wasn't so lucky. I slid in the ditch again! I tried to remember what Cliff had told me to do, and did manage to drive myself out. I had never driven on snow before, and these were frightful experiences for me. One time, I was at Peggy Bramall's, and had a difficult time driving up the hill. One time in Benalto, I slid into a bank of snow, and while trying to get out, my car froze up, and I spent the night with Ralph and Mae Lougheed. We had lots of snow that year, and I saw my first "White" Christmas. It was lovely. There is really nothing in Texas to compare with it. Cliff, Deenie, the kids and I went to Crimson Lake and brought back a trailer load of Christmas trees. The ones we got for the community dinner and church, touched the ceiling. In fact we had to trim the top, so it would stand straight. I helped decorate them. They were just beautiful. I really enjoyed all of this as well as the program we had at the church. The tottler's choir sang "Silent Night", and wore their little white robes with the big red bows. I ate Christmas pudding at the Clyde Stauffer's. In fact I spent Christmas Day with them. By this time Deenie had taken me under her wing and I was treated like one of the family. They were just wonderful to me. I am the most fortunate to have friends such as the ones I had at Evarts community, and I will be forever grateful to them.

That winter I experienced 40 degrees below Fahrenheit for the first time, and also saw snow stay all winter. The next spring, Frank and I were in the process of dissolving our partnership, and I went to the Banff

School of Fine Arts for a short course in oil painting. I sure got in over my head that time, but it was fun. So went my life in Canada. I later bought a house in Red Deer and lived there until I decided it would be best for me to return to Texas. I still have fond memories of the happy times I spent in Canada.

ARDELL STORY — Anne Johnson and Laura Fitch

Joseph and Clara Ardell and their family, formerly of Red Deer and Diamond Valley, moved to the Kenneth Jackson place SE 12-38-3-W5 at Evarts in 1931. Mr. Ardell farmed the land, and grew a large market garden on the rich soil, sheltered by a caragana hedge — a landmark from the road.

Laura was already married to Budd Fitch of Centerville. **Bill** the older son, had a portable grinding and wood sawing outfit, and did custom work in the area. Later, he turned to general trucking. He and his wife, Olive, and baby daughter, Ferrol, lived for a time with Carl Feitl, on land now belonging to Lloyd McNeil, and formerly to John Johnson. The Bill Ardells now (1976), live part-time at Victoria and the remainder, on their farm at Quesnel, British Columbia. The second daughter, **Anne**, kept house for a year for Carrie and Dewey Nielsen, then proceeded to Camrose Normal School. Her forty year teaching career began at Raven, in 1932. During the second World War, she and her husband, Henry Johnson, served in the Armed Services — C.W.A.C. and R.C.A.F. respectively.

They now spend their time between their home in Creston, British Columbia, and the Phoenix area of Arizona. **Etta**, attended school under Miss Atzinger at Evarts, completing ninth grade work there. For some years now, she has been in Real Estate Advertising for the Daily Province newspaper, Vancouver, British Columbia. Her children are Margaret Ann Henry of Surrey, British Columbia and Robert C. A. Cooke of Calgary. **Frank**, attended school at Evarts, and with his gentle nature, made many friends. His sudden death, at age eleven, from ruptured appendix in August, 1932, was a terrible blow to the family. He was deeply mourned in the district. Reverend Stevens, conducted the funeral in the Presbyterian church at Evarts, where the family was supported by a host of friends, school children and



Joe Ardell family, 1932. Mr. and Mrs. Ardell, Bill, Etta, Laura and Budd Fitch and Anne, Alma and Frank in front.



Anna, Alma, Etta, Mrs. Ardell and Laura, 1973.

beautiful flowers. **Alma** (Sally), also attended Evarts School. She later married Harry Bergstrom, a sergeant in the R.C.A.S.C., who had several years of overseas service. The Bergstroms and their family have resided in Calgary since.

About 1933, the Ardells purchased a farm in the Arbutus district, east of Rocky Mountain House. Mr. Ardell passed away in September 1940. Mrs. Ardell later married Edward Phoenix of Naicam, Saskatchewan, who predeceased her. She passed away in Calgary in May 1973.

THE JIM ARMSTRONG FAMILY

Jim and Mary Armstrong, along with their five sons, **Elbert, Bob, Bill, Gaylord, John** and one daughter **Pearl**, came from Arkansas, in March, 1904 and settled on the SW 1-39-3-W5. It was quite an experience coming from a country where it seldom snowed, to a land of deep snow and forty degree below zero weather.

Mr. Armstrong and his sons lived in tents until they were able to construct a log home, which, by the way still stands, although it hasn't been occupied for many years. Mrs. Armstrong and her daughter Pearl, stayed in Red Deer for a while until the weather warmed up a bit.

Mrs. Armstrong's health was not good and she passed away within a year after they arrived in Alberta. Pearl stayed and kept house for the family until 1909, when she was married to Jesse Craig of the Happy Hill district. Mr. Armstrong passed away in 1907.

Through the years, the Armstrong brothers acquired quite a bit of land and farmed and raised horses. They used to have horse sales and let a number of horses out to different ones to have the use of them for a season, in return for breaking them. Their horse brand was **OU**. This went on until the tractor age took over. They didn't farm too long with tractors until they sold some of their land and rented out the rest. John was the only one of the brothers who married. After his marriage to Luella (Kit) Brahan, they moved to a farm near Eckville. To this union were born two sons, Billy and Barry and a daughter, Marie, who passed away as a small child. Billy and Barry both passed away as comparatively young



Gaylord, John Elbert, Bob, Bill Armstrong, housekeeper Madam Pieroux.

men. John was elevator agent at South Eckville and Benalto, for a number of years, and Kit served as telephone operator in Eckville, for a number of years. Kit now lives in Red Deer.

Elbert remained with the other brothers as cook and housekeeper. He could sure make good corn-bread and biscuits. They all enjoyed music and Elbert loved to play old-time music on his violin. Beginning with Bill, the brothers passed on, one by one, but the house they built still remains a landmark in the district. In passing, it may be of interest to say John clerked in the store at Evarts for Jack Robinson. George Fitch still recalls the little good-will packages of gum tucked into the grocery orders by John, for himself and the other children of their family. **Note:** Harley Stamm, present owner of Armstrong brothers farm provided the following:

Although the Armstrong holdings were in what is now the Benalto and Eckville districts, it should be remembered that before the opening of the C.P.R. Alberta Central Railway in 1914, there was no Benalto Post Office; and before the opening of the Canadian North Western Railway (now CN) in the same year there was an Eckville post office. When the Armstrong family arrived from Arkansas and put up their tents in May, 1904, their post office was Evarts. Some of their land was in Gilby district. They did business with the merchants at both place, J. H. Robinson, Evarts and M. Sestrap, Gilby.

Records left behind show that these people had a good understanding of farm financing, commodity marketing, animal pedigrees-especially horses and an American willingness to borrow money and invest, things that agronomists are still expounding to modern farmers. Armstrongs were on top of these ideas at a time when most homesteaders were working hard to subsist and stay out of debt.

The Armstrong brothers were known far and wide and recognized as prosperous and progressive farmers. They were assessed for income tax in the twenties, something that few farmers worried about then. In addition to operating a big farm, they bred and traded Percheron horses, and at one time had three hundred head, with some distinguished stallions, including Star.

GERALD AND SARAH AXELSEN

Gerald Axelsen was born on August 2, 1943, in Calgary, Alberta. Educated in Calgary, he worked in northern Manitoba, prior to spending three years travelling around the world.

Sarah Axelsen (Bland), was born in Norwich, England on April 20, 1944. Educated in England and subsequently travelled to eastern Canada, and later around the world.

We met while travelling to Australia, returned to England and married. We came to Red Deer, Alberta in 1973. We moved on to the farm (Walter Allen's) S.E. 29-37-2-W. 5, in April, 1974.

We have two daughters; **Karen**, born February 13, 1974 and **Tamar**, born November 18, 1975.

THE BARDAL FAMILY

Benedict and Sezilia arrived in America from Iceland in 1873. Sezilia's mother Durlief Bjornsdotter (Bjorns daughter) accompanied them and was a very efficient and helpful member of the family. They homesteaded in the Tindastoll district in 1888 and lived there for eleven years before moving to their sons: Julius, Helgi and Paul who had each obtained a homestead in the Evarts district. They raised horses and Shorthorn cattle and specialized in riding and driving horses.

Benedict was a good carpenter and also always available to assist with community work. Sezilia was secretary-treasurer for the Icelandic library "Idunn" for several years and also for Icelandic Ladies Aid "Vonin". She passed away in 1903 and Benedict in 1910.

Sezilia's mother lived on NW 30-37-2-W5 and passed away in 1902. **Julius**, their eldest son homesteaded SE 30-37-2-W5. He had a jovial disposition and always on hand if someone needed help. He spent his retiring years with Arnie at Bearberry and Sundre. He passed away in 1953 in Calgary.

Paul homesteaded NE 24-37-3-W5 on February 11, 1901. In 1901 he built the first frame house in the Evarts (now known as Happy Hill) district, he hand planed all the sidings and trimmings. In 1915, his house burnt. He was a steadfast member of the Good Templar Society in Markerville, as well as the Lodge "Woodmen of the World". He passed away suddenly at his home in 1918.

Arnie, was born January 1885 in North Dakota. He homesteaded N.W. 24-37-23-W5 in February 20, 1903. He loved horses and took a great pride in keeping his driving pony in top shape and appearance. Arnie had his steam engineer license. He recalled that in 1902 it rained all summer, making it impossible to put up hay, until after the 10th day of September storm, which was followed by an Indian summer. The winter was fairly mild. Some hay was put up after the sloughs froze over. By 1903, a lot of the land was being fenced, thus not so much open range and the Bardals were forced to decrease their stock.

In 1904 Arnie went on a log drive on Lobstick Creek, into Horse Guard, Medicine and Red Deer River to the town of Red Deer for \$2.00 per day — 14 hour days.

When Arnie was 19, the Happy Hill district was just being formed, he was the assessor and got \$8.00 per year. He also was the youngest member on the school board. In 1910, he settled down to farming, doing considerable custom work.

Arnie sold his homestead in 1912. In 1917 he married Stephania (Fanny) Stephenson, daughter of Stephen G. Stephenson and lived on his land in New Hill district. Arnie and Fanny took an active part in community affairs, he was chairman of the directors of the Central Community Hall.

He remembered the winter of 1915, no snow until January 6th. A prairie fire broke out January 5th, luckily and snow arrived the next day. Then in May 1923, 24 inches of snow fell within 24 hours, which took a large toll of new calves and lambs. The long hard winter of 1919-1920, with high priced feed, loss of stock, the severe drop in the price of all farm products made Arnie and Fanny decide to leave their land in New Hill area and return to live with brother Julius in 1924. In 1931, they homesteaded in the Bearberry district, he supplemented his farm income with carpentering and lumber mill work.

Mrs. Bardal passed away in 1940. Arnie at age 80 retired to Autumn Glen Lodge where he resided until his passing in 1971. Their son Gestur married Jean Nelson of James River. They have five children and live in Northern Alberta.

Helgi was born in 1879 in North Dakota, he lived in Tindastoll district until he was old enough to take up a homestead. In 1899 he homesteaded SW 30-37-2-W5. They put up some log buildings and fenced some of the land to keep out cattle and horses that were on the open range. Helgi worked out, as there was enough land cleared and broke to fill the requirements of the homestead law. Helgi and Paul were the first to have a binder, which was a Massey Harris six foot. They also bought a steam engine, a plow and threshers. They would stack thresh. The stacks would be made when the bundles were ripe. The stacks would be made round and high, the butt end of the stooks were stacked on the outside of the stack, with the head end of stook on the inside, so they didn't get wet. It was sometimes Christmas before the threshing would be done. Grain was put in a wagon box and hauled to the granary, as they couldn't get close enough to the granary with the threshing machine. Signals from threshing outfits could be heard for miles as MacPherson, Johnson and Bardals would signal-time for the noon-day meal or water was needed.

In 1911, Helgi married Laura Hunford who was born in Fargo, North Dakota in 1887. In 1889 she came with her parents to the Hola district to homestead SW 30-37-2-W5. A daughter **Freda** was born on January 10, 1912. Helgi died in March 1912. Mrs. Bardal continued to farm with the help of her brother Ben and other members of her family. There was no widows pension or baby bonus at that time, you just made out the best you could. It was a must for Mrs. Bardal to take lunch to the men when they were working on the road to pay the taxes. In 1918, Mrs. Bardal and Ben bought NE 19-37-2-W5 from Canadian Pacific Railway, they broke about 40 acres and in 1958 sold it to Evert Ball. Ben worked as a farm laborer and in saw mills in winter.

In 1920 they got their first phone. They were at the end of the line, so took messages to people further on. In the early 1920's Freda can remember hearing the first radio. "You had to put on ear phones to listen. It would squeak and squeal but you could hear music and news" she said.

There was little snow in 1931, but lots of skating on the sloughs. There was sleighing parties on the big hill on SE 30-37-2 W5, the first toboggan on the hill was made by Barney Eymundson.

In 1937, Mrs. Bardal and Freda bought NW 30-37-2-W5, it had been homesteaded by William Schultz in 1903, he sold it to Fritz Giselman who traded it to Wm. Howe Mucis Co., Calgary for a player piano which is still at Condor hall. Mrs. Bardal left the farm in 1960 and went to Autumn Glen Lodge at Innisfail. At age 80 she passed away.

Freda, daughter of Helgi and Laura Bardal married David Wecker in 1938, they have continued to carry on the Bardal farm. They have three children Laura (Mrs. John Olson) of Markerville, who has two children; Bonnie (Mrs. Peter Olson) has three children, and lives in Red Deer, Brian farms with his dad and mother.

DIXIE NAH BEXIE

Dixie and wife and family, lived on SW 24-38-3-W5 for sometime. Their children Jane and Peter attended Evarts school. Later they lived on SW 16-38-3-W5.

WILLIAM BIERAUGEL

William Richard Bieraugel was born January 4, 1887 at New Ulm, Minnesota. Leaving there in 1912, he took up residence at Bellfield, North Dakota. In 1914 he came to Canada with a carload of settlers effects and with Mrs. Bieraugel settled north of Red Deer where he worked for the Great West Sawmill. In 1915, they moved to the Sylvan Lake district, and in 1919 to the Peace River district, but owing to the failing health of their three-year old son, they returned to their farm in the Evarts district, where the little boy died shortly after. The Bieraugel's also lived for a time in the village of Evarts. In 1925, Mr. Bieraugel joined the CPR as maintenance at Benalto, moving their house in Evarts, to Benalto. In 1936 they moved to Sylvan Lake retiring from the railroad in 1952 on pension, and continued to live there. **William Bieraugel** passed away June 14, 1957 leaving his wife and daughter **Jessie (Mrs. Alex Frome, Calgary)** and two grandchildren. Mrs. Bieraugel has since passed away, and so passed another family of old-timers.

R. M. BLACK FAMILY

Bob and his wife and family arrived in the Evarts district around 1924 and purchased S.E. 26-38-3-W5. They came from Canora, Saskatchewan. Their family consisted of **two girls** and a boy, **Douglas**. One of the girls passed away after they left Evarts. It is understood that Mr. Balck was employed with Massey Harris Company. While in this district he farmed and took an active part in the community. He was one of the original shareholders in the Evarts Curling Club. Mrs. Black predicted in the early days that someday oil would be found in this area.

September 6, 1928, R. M. Black held an auction sale with auctioneer H. W. Murphy and clerk Scot Hastie.

The last connections any one had with the Blacks was that they were in Calgary.



Peter, Isabel, Mr. and Mrs. Bob Black, Mr. and Mrs. Andy Stewart.

W. E. BRAMALL

I, W. E. Bramall (Bob), was born in Yorkshire, England and came to Canada in 1923, working on a farm in Stratford, Ontario, before coming west in 1925 with a harvest excursion. I landed at Benalto, and went to work on the Frank Jackson farm at Evarts. I was very impressed with the clarity of the mountains and hoped to walk out there the first chance I had. I changed my



W. E. (Bob) Bramall family — l. to r. — Dennis, Mr. Bramall, Peter, Allyson, Fraser, Margaret, Mrs. Bramall and Bob.

mind when I was told that they were eighty miles away. I worked on farms in the district until 1927, when I rented a quarter of land from Mr. A. McPherson. This venture was not a profitable one as first hail and later frost destroyed the crop. Later that year, I rented the farm we still live on from Olaf Norman.

In 1929 I married Margaret (Peggy) Cameron. Our first home was a granary. In 1932, I bought this farm from the Lutheran Church. We have six of a family — four sons, and two daughters. **Robert** married Muriel Brandon from Swan River, Man. They have two sons Kevin and Keith, and a daughter Shelly. **Dennis** married Ardis Norre from Dickson. They have five children, Vicki, Coleen, Daryl, Glenda, and Leslie. **Margaret** married Otto Hermann from Leader, Sask., and have a son and daughter, Barry and Barbara. Otto is in construction and Margaret works for Gulf Oil, in Calgary. **Peter** married Barbara Myles from Auckland, New Zealand and they have three sons, Matthew, Peter Jr. and Cameron. Peter works in the pulp and paper industry in New Zealand. **Allison** married Earl Storey, of Sylvan Lake. They have two daughters Terry and Debra and reside in Courtenay, B.C. Allison is an accountant there. **Fraser** farms in the Gaetz district. He married Phyllis Winters and they have a son and daughter.

R. W. BRAMALL (BOB AND MURIEL) S.E. 4-38-2-W5

Bob, eldest son of W. E. Bramall, was born and raised in the Evarts area, taking his schooling at Evarts and Sylvan Lake. I was born near Swan River, Manitoba, only daughter of Charles and Elizabeth (Liz) Brandon. I had four brothers, Bev, Bruce, Ralph and Milton. Bev and Bruce worked in the west in various jobs for some time. I came to Edmonton, working in various positions, and moved to Red Deer in 1960, where I was employed by Alberta Government Telephone. Bob and I were married at Swan River in 1960. The first year and half of married life was spent in the teacherage at Evarts, it being vacated because of centralization. Other families living at Evarts then were the Reeves, Haupts, Selstrom and Willets. When Bob's parents moved into their new home, we moved into their old one, living there for about fourteen years. Shortly after we moved from the teacherage, it was bought and moved by Otto Pohl.

We have three children, two sons **Kevin** and **Keith**, and a daughter **Shelly Ann**. They attend school at Sylvan Lake.

DENNIS CAMERON BRAMALL

Dennis Bramall is the second son of Bob (W.E.) and Peggy Bramall. After the completion of his schooling at Evarts, Dennis worked on his Dad's farm and on many of the farms in the community. Then he went seismographing and truck driving.

In 1955 Dennis married Ardis Norre of Dickson, who was then teaching at the Evarts School. Prior to this, Ardis had taught two years at Rich Hill School at Kevisville; one year at Evarts and had then attended the University of Alberta at Edmonton for further training. Then she returned to teaching at Evarts.

Dennis and Ardis built a home on the N.E. corner of 4-38-2-W5 and moved into it in Jan. 1956. At this time Dennis was truck driving. In the fall of 1956 he bought his own truck with which he hauled lumber west of



Dennis Bramall family, seated; Ardis and Dennis. L. to R. — Leslie, Vicki, Daryl, Colleen and Glenda.

Rocky Mountain House during the winter and gravel in the summer season.

Still a farmer at heart, Dennis purchased the Myron Nielsen farm S.W. 20-38-2-W5 in October 1961. In Nov. 1962 they sold the house and acreage where they had been living to Earl and Kay Klammer of New Serapta and moved to the Nielsen farm. The Klammers later sold the acreage to Charlie and Arthur Chandler.

In 1963 Dennis bought the N.W. 5-38-2W5 from the Braton estate. He had been renting N.W. 16-38-2W5 from Clara Sjare for a number of years and purchased it from her in 1967.

Dennis and Ardis have five children. **Vicki**, a 1976 graduate of Olds College in Fashion Merchandising Technology, works in Calgary. **Colleen** married Dale Barth of Regina, Saskatchewan. The Barths live and work in Edmonton. **Daryl**, **Glenda** and **Leslie** are still at home. All the children have belonged to the various local 4H Clubs; Clothing, Beef and Horse, and were pleased to be winners of some of the awards!

Dennis is a curling enthusiast. He is a director of the Benalto Fair and its Agricultural Committee. He is president of the Sylvan Cattle Co. Dennis was Rodeo secretary of the Benalto Stampede from 1967 to 1974 and is a past member of the Benalto Presbyterian Church Board.

Ardis was a leader, and assistant leader of the Evarts 4H Clothing Club; president of the Evarts Community Club; Secretary-treasurer of the Benalto Presbyterian Church and a member of its Church Board. Presently she teaches grades 1, 2 and 3 at the Benalto School.

MARINO BRANSON

Mr. Marino Branson, at the age of fifteen years, came to work for the summer for John Hillman in 1922. The wages then were \$15.00 a month and \$25.00 a month in July and August. Out of the summer's work, Marino realized \$7.65 to spend foolishly on himself, the rest of

his wages went toward his parent's house that was being built, John Hillman was the carpenter. He remembers well, driving Shauna and Hanna Eymundson to school at Evarts. In 1923, Mr. Branson worked for the Sigurdson's, where he and Mr. Sigurdson milked 19 cows by hand. He related, it was a wonderful place to work, and that he didn't have to get up until seven a.m. in the morning. Mr. Branson worked at the Sigurdson's until 1926, and then for two years worked for the Paulson's. Mr. Thorel Eymundson bought a farm south of Evarts, and gave the house to Mr. Branson Sr. In order to move the house, it was cut in two parts and moved with horses by the Robertson's to their farm as Mr. Branson gave up the idea of moving it so far to the New Hill district. This same house was fondly called the "House with the Golden Windows" by the school children who went down the south road from the school, as in the afternoon, the sun shone on the windows of the house, just like the story from their reader at school.

Some of the Indian families that Mr. Branson remembers well are the Strawberries, Little Bear, Red Calf, Yellow Face and Good Runner tribes. He remembers them travelling around the country in wagons.

Being Icelandic, Mr. Branson returned to Iceland last summer (1974) but found difficulty with the language there, as he was accustomed to the (Swedish Icelandic mixture) that had been spoken at home. The Icelanders in Iceland had different words for such new inventions as T.V., radio, telephone, etc. and he did not know how to cope with them, also their speed in talking was hard for him to understand.

Mr. Branson appears in Ottawa Canada Book published recently honoring him for twenty-three years of service in the Post Office at Stauffer, where incidentally, he is still working unofficially helping there.

SAM AND JANET BRATON FAMILY

Samuel H. Braton was born in Ontario and spent most of his life in Minnesota, U.S.A. It was here in Shelbourne County, where he met and married Janet Harrington, who was born in 1866 in Shelbourne County and lived there until moving to Canada. The Braton children were all born here also. They had a family of six children, **Mina, Sam, Ina, Margaret, Dave, and Merritt**. We left Minnesota, and came to Red Deer by train. We had sold our beautiful Percheron horses, Shorthorn cattle, and machinery, in order to come, reserving two carloads for the trip west and our homesteading venture. Brother Sam had a weak arm, as he had spent four years in and out of hospital with tuberculosis. Consequently his classmates were far ahead of him, and he refused to go back to finish his education with children so much younger. This problem was really the reason for father deciding to move. He had learned about the easily acquired land in Canada, and thought that Sam would need some land, and later the other boys too. Father had no particular reason for choosing Evarts, only that he liked the look of the land around Red Deer, and got off the train, never to get on it again. We remember the big white house at the edge of a nice grove of trees, in Minnesota, and the beautiful Percheron horses that father drove. One team of these horse were later sold to the Edmonton Brewery.

It was a great change to come to a new country, so wild and unsettled. The NE 18-38-2-5, was the land that father filed on as a homestead, which had been given up by a man who went back to his old home. There was a two roomed shack on it with a mud roof and floor. When it rained, the roof leaked in several places. Mother tacked oilcloth up to keep the rain off things. Father was not long in driving to Red Deer to get enough lumber to cover the dirt roof. Our door was a board door that hooked with a latch, and the windows were half windows. The youngest children thought that it was fun, but mother and the older children felt very lonesome, and must have shed some tears. We lived in this shack until our new house was built on a site further south, where there was talk of a bridge going in over the Medicine River. Father gave the land to start the village of Evarts, in hopes that the railway, coming soon from Red Deer to Rocky Mountain House, would come this way. The preliminary surveys had been done showing the railway coming right through the proposed village of Evarts. The railroad, however, went further north through Benalto. Our little village was called Evarts, after one of the early settlers who lived across the river from us. At this time George Robinson, also from Minnesota, built a store across the trail from our house. Later Oswald Forhan bought this store and from there the building of our hamlet will be told under a separate story. Our closest neighbor was Leckvolds, who lived across the river from us. They had three boys and a girl who were the same ages as the Braton children. If we wanted to cross the river, we had to go the the bank, and call across, to get a ride in their small boat. The Medicine ran full of water those days, and had an abundance of fish. The fish were large in size. There were lovely pickerel, pike, bass, and suckers. A man by the name of Joe Bruggerman came out with us and spent the summer. He was our fisherman. He used a net, and each morning would pull out the net and take the fish he wanted and throw the rest back. The fish were so large in size, Mother baked them and fried them. How good they were, and how we did enjoy them.

There were very few trees growing on the flats, only a few willow. Father soon had considerable land broken. This was probably the first sod broken in Evarts. Sam helped seed it into oats. The frosts were so bad that wheat could not grow. The clearing was not hard to do, only here and there the willows had to be dug out. One morning father looked out, to find there had been a killing frost, and the grain was all frozen. There was no sale for his steers, and the price offered was most discouraging. The third year he was getting ready to go to Red Deer, to "prove up" on his homestead, and that was the day that he died. Mother nearly felt she could not manage the farm alone. Sam was eighteen, and Dave was eleven, so you may know that she did not have much help with the farm duties.

There were only a few neighbors at first. Some that we recall, were Martin and Ed. Loken, to the east, and of course the Leckvolds and the Evarts family, who lived at the timberline west of Evarts, on the south side of the highway there now. At that early date, there were no such things as cars, radios, and tractors. I know we didn't have them. A few years later those things began to appear. There wasn't of course any school so mother took us children to Calgary, and rented a house, and put us to school there. We did this for two years, before the school

was built. That was the year 1903, and father built our house that year too. Margaret, Dave and Merritt were in attendance at Evarts School, when it first opened. Margaret went on to High School in Red Deer. Merritt graduated as a Doctor of Medicine. Miss Brown was our first teacher. Miss Forhan was another we remember.

Our entertainment was very limited those days. I remember an old fellow whose name was Simmons. Everyone called him Red, because of his red hair. He bought a new buggy just shortly before Hallowe'en, so he took it up by our old log house, and hid it in the bushes. This was the worst thing he could have done. Hallowe'en night, the boys of the village and surrounding country, were all out in force, for all the mischief they could stir up. They hunted until they found the buggy, and they brought it back and put it up on the roof. What a sight, when they got up in the morning. There it was on top of the house, with two wheels on either side the ridge-pole. Poor Red! Some of the boys helped him to get it down. It was hard on the outhouses those days.

This same Hallowe'en night, father was trying to watch a new wagon which he had bought. He was afraid they would take the wheels off it and hide them someplace. While he was watching the wagon, they slipped around and upset the outhouse. We had dances in the schoolhouse, and in the winter, lots of house parties. We often took the team and sled, driving as far as ten miles for a house party, and often not getting home until six o'clock in the morning. We had school concerts too, and that's about it. We might add, we had lots of fun cleaning off the snow and having skating parties on the river. We would build big bon-fires and such fun we did have. By the way, Margaret got her first date to go to one of those parties.

The seasons were so short for growing grains and gardens. Frost came early in the fall. We couldn't raise cucumbers, tomatoes, or corn. One year we had a snowstorm in June. We recall the year our father died, we got a terrific hailstorm in the night. The grain was just headed out. The next morning, Mother didn't have any crop left. It was all pounded into the ground. The front door of our old house, was all pitted from the hail that night. The cold winters were terrible. We lost our cellar vegetables about every winter, in spite of all we did to try to keep them.

One very sad accident happened in the early days at Evarts. The two oldest Jackson boys came out of Sunday School and said to Merritt, "Lets go swimming in the river". The youngest boy got in first, and it was thought that he got dizzy, and went under. His older brother jumped in to save him, and he drowned too. Merritt was on the bank. He hadn't got in the water yet, but he saw it happen, and ran for help. It was a long time before they could find the bodies. They had fallen into some of those deep holes further down. It was very sad.

We used to have student ministers come during the summer months, when they were going to college. We had Presbyterian, Baptist, Church of England, and Methodist. They always made our home their stopping place, whether it was just the noon meal on Sunday, or coming Saturday night, and staying with us over night. We remember one Presbyterian minister who drove a horse and buggy. What did the young men of the village do, but change the wheels of his buggy, while he was in

church. You should have seen him driving off in that buggy, with the small wheels behind.

The Medicine River used to overflow its banks. Water came up nearly to the hill, and the bridge couldn't be used until it went down. One Sunday afternoon, the cheese-maker in Evarts, asked Ina and Margaret to go boating down by the bridge, when the water was high. They went and got all nicely seated in the boat, and started to shove off from the shore, when the boat accidentally tipped on Ina's side, and Margaret fell out on top of her. They both got a real ducking. Ina had on a white dress, and you should have seen that. Margaret had on an accordion pleated skirt, and you should have seen that too. The girls were sure put out at that Tony. They had to walk right up through the village and what a laugh everyone had.

Margaret played for church services, the four churches mentioned for five years. There were two services every Sunday, morning and night, and the next Sunday, the other two churches were there. She never missed a service, and she played when the little church was dedicated there in Evarts.

Mention should be made of Janet Braton. To stay in a country which at that time was next to a wilderness, after losing her husband, and raise her family there, when there were so many hardships to endure, showed she was made of true pioneer spirit and fortitude. She helped to build the hamlet of Evarts, which at that time in its prime, was the largest trading centre between Red Deer and Rocky Mountain House. Not only did she manage her own affairs very well and profitably, but she was always available when babies were due to arrive, or illness struck the district. Many a break, burn or cut, was given first aid treatment by her. Mrs. Braton was always known for her hospitality, and often had a house full of visitors to prove it. She often boarded the teacher, and early settlers often stayed there until finding a home of their own, as well as many social visitors.

After all the Braton family had left Evarts, Janet's two sons Sam and Dave, lived with her. She is well remembered by all the school children down through those years, as having something nice to say to them as they tracked through her yard, with pail in hand, to carry water for the needs of the school. The water at Evarts was not good. The well drilled at the store had huge flakes of red rust in it, and tasted terrible. For some reason the water at Braton's was clear at least. Later it was found that there was natural gas in it.

The Braton story is not complete without mentioning the Braton brothers, Sam and Dave. They were a part of Evarts nearly all their lives. One could never go to the store in the evening but what either Sam or Dave or both of them would be sitting there having a visit with anyone coming into the store. They were easy-going, fun loving, and not afraid to help out when needed.

After staying with her sons for some time, Mrs. Braton moved to Eckville, where she served on the board of the Eckville school district. She suffered a stroke in 1924, from which she did not fully recover. She also had an illness of two months' duration which was terminated by her death on February 26, 1941, at the age of 75 years. She was laid to rest beside her husband Samuel in the Red Deer Cemetery.

Of the family of three daughters and three sons, Margaret Florence was married at Evarts on September



Merritt Braton.

5, 1910, to Samuel Isaac Smith, who with his brother, operated a ranch and store business at Evarts, and later was engaged in real estate business in Red Deer. Following his death, his widow lived at Nampa, Idaho, and later married P. Curtis, and lived at La Grange and Cave, Oregon.

Wilhemina, married William C. A. Watt, the senior partner in Watt Brothers, Innisfail, then a member of the Innisfail town council, on March 26, 1912. Mr. Watt came to Red Deer to open a branch of their implement business in partnership with C. E. McCune as Watt Brothers and McCune in April, 1912. Mr. and Mrs. Watt subsequently lived in Calgary.

Ina married Oscar Watt of Innisfail, and they later lived in Edmonton and Grande Prairie.

Merritt J. Braton took his high school education at Red Deer. He served in the armed forces during World War I. He married Anne White of the Balmoral district on September 9, 1922. After graduating in Medicine, he practiced at Pincher Creek, and later established a practice in Edmonton. Merritt later went blind, and was living in Calgary, until his death in 1976.

Sam and Dave will be covered under separate histories.

SAMUEL HUGH BRATON — DAVID CLOUGH BRATON — S.E. 18-38-2-W5

Sam and Dave Braton lived together all their lives, and so it would seem fitting that their histories are written as one. Sam was born in about 1880 in Minnesota as well as his brother Dave, who was born in about 1890, to Samuel and Janet Braton. In 1902, the Braton family moved to the Evarts district. Dave, with his brother Merritt and sister Margaret, were three of the few children who made up the first class at the Evarts school.

Sam and Dave learned to farm at an early age, as Sam was only 18 years of age when his father passed away. The boys lived together with their mother for many years after the other brothers and sisters, Ina, Mina, Margaret and Merritt, had left their home, for various reasons. The two boys and their mother continued on with the farm, also many other activities as well. Sam was keenly interested in baseball, and starred on the Evarts and Eckville teams in the earlier years. It is thought that Sam never missed a world's series on radio. A bachelor all his life, Sam retired from farming in 1955. He died in the Eckville hospital at the age of 73. He is buried in the Red Deer cemetery. Dave, assisted his brother in the farming of the family farm, in addition to homesteading S.W. 3-38-3-W. 5. After retiring in 1956, he moved to Calgary in 1959, where he died on January 26, 1962, at the age of 69. He is survived by two daughters, Sheila, who married M. Furasewitch of Dickson, and Carole, who married T. Norman of Innisfail. Dave is buried in Queen's Park Cemetery, Calgary.

One amusing story is told, of when Sam was not very old, and there happened to be a couple of brothers, living in their dug-out, up the hill from Evarts. It seems these two brothers had bought a keg of beer at the hotel, and proceeded to roll it home, singing as they went. There had been a few other party-minded friends invited along, but Sam was not invited, or made to feel welcome, as he wasn't old enough to enjoy such frivolities. The party progressed, and after a time the room seemed to be getting very smoky. It took some time for them to discover, amid coughs and splutters, that something was amiss with the stove. On investigating farther, they found the chimney plugged. This handiwork was credited to Sam, who went silently home, not to say another word.

Sam and Dave were always of a hospitable nature, and often had friends stay with them. This trait was passed to them from their mother, who in the earlier years had visitors too numerous to mention. The Braton house stood as a familiar landmark at Evarts for half a century or more, before being burned down. Sam and Dave, as well as the house are gone, but not to be forgotten in the hearts of the older generation in Evarts. They are remembered as good neighbors, good farmers and a friend to everyone.

JOE BREGERMAN

He came to the Evarts district with the Braton family and stayed with them. He was a great fisherman, using a net and enjoyed fishing in the Medicine River.

ALEX BROWN FAMILY

Alex, second son of Mr. and Mrs. Jim Brown of Eckville, and his wife Sylvia, daughter of Mr. and Mrs.

Hugo Mottus of the Gilby district, lived in Fort St. John and Kamloops, British Columbia before returning to Alberta, where they lived near Benalto, then moved into the Evarts district with their four sons. They lived in the buildings on N.W. 12-38-3 W5. Alex was a battery operator for Apache Oil Company.

Alex and Sylvia were both ardent curlers and participated in that sport at Benalto. Sylvia was a member of Evarts Community Club. The boys attended the Benalto school and took part in various community activities.

After leaving Evarts, they purchased an acreage north of Rocky Mountain House where they lived for a few years, before selling and moving into Rocky town where Alex is employed with the Alberta Government as Utility Officer.

Duncan married Rhonda Bolten of Rocky Mountain House, they have two children and live in Fort McMurray. **Bob** is employed at Vernon, British Columbia. **Grant** married Joan Spoor of Rocky Mountain House, they have a daughter. Grant is employed with Calgary Power and they live in Olds. **Gordon** married Marjorie Wardlaw of Yorkton, Saskatchewan, they lived in Calgary for two years before moving back to Rocky Mountain House where Gordon has assumed operation of the commercial printing division of the Mountaineer.

ARTHUR BUNCH

Arthur and Bessie Bunch came to Canada from Talouse, Washington, United States in 1911, settling first in the Ridgewood-Pine Hill district. In 1930 they took up residence on S.E. 26-38-3-W5 in Evarts district. Norman attended school at Evarts. They lived here for four years before moving to the Hespero area and on to the farm of relatives, Mr. and Mrs. Bob Edgar.

The family consisted of **Ellis**, who married Lila Innis. They live in Innishfail. **Ray**, married Rose Seibert of Hespero. They are retired and residing in Sylvan Lake. **Carl**, died at the age of eleven years. **Norman**, is married and lives in Red Deer, where he is employed at Alpha Dairy Pool.

Mr. Bunch passed away in 1940, Mrs. Bunch in her 90th year, is a patient in Doctor Parsons Auiliary Hospital, Red Deer.

P. N. CAMERON — written by Peggy Bramall

Peter Nicholson Cameron was born in 1876, at Ballindollock, Banffshire, Scotland. Maggie Wilson Cameron was born at Cumineston, Scotland. Our parents were married in February, 1904, and moved to Elgin, Scotland. **Grant**, **Alice** and I (**Peggy**) were born in that town. In the spring of 1911, Dad went to Manitoba, and worked on a farm until that fall, when he returned to Britain. In 1913, we emigrated to Alberta, my father working on a farm until the fall of 1914. On August, 1914, Dad went out as far as Pitcox (Hespero) looking for land, only to find it all under water. My father was sure he had ridden one of the first trains leaving Red Deer on the Alberta Central Railroad. Eventually a farm was bought in the Marianne district, now owned by Jack Britton. That winter Dad worked for J. W. W. Slack for five dollars a month. The following spring, our youngest brother **Wilson** was born in March, 1915.

Our school was Marianne. Later, Grant and I attended school at Kuusamo — the first two-roomed



Mr. and Mrs. Peter Cameron.

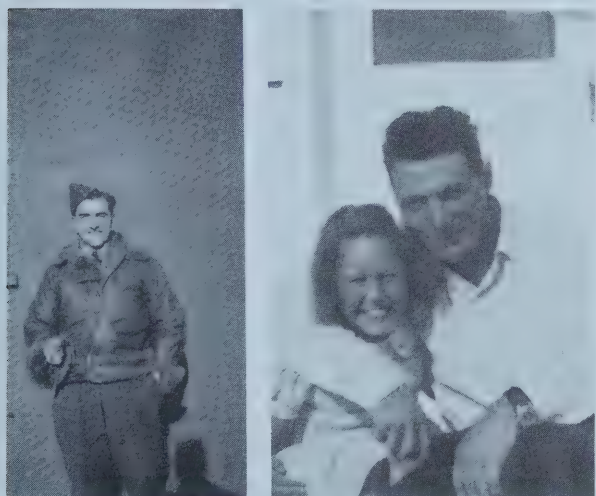
school in the area. Grade nine and ten were taught there. Our Post Office, store and church were at Evarts. On one of my mother's grocery lists was the item, black shoe polish. Mr. Simpson, the storekeeper laughed and told Dad he didn't stock it as no one asked for it. Mr. Simpson told us many amusing incidents about his early storekeeping days — such as the man who was sent to Red Deer for general groceries, but whatever else, bring flour and yeast. The gentleman who was freighting, arrived back almost a week later. He hadn't any flour, but he had matches. It had rained all week, so Mr. Simpson dried these matches on the attic floor, and sold them by the shoe box.

In 1916, a Mutual Telephone Company was formed, and the central was at Evarts. We, as well as many others, had it installed, and this proved to be a real boon, particularly in emergencies such as accidents, illness and fires. In 1917, the Benalto Agricultural Society held its first fair in a tent. My parents were members, and very interested in this society. They were given life memberships on retiring to Sylvan Lake. They were very proud of this honor bestowed on them. In 1924, Dad bought the Leslie Walker farm in the Evarts district, S.E. 9-38-2-W. 5. Alice and Wilson attended the Evarts School now. My father was one of the early Wheat Pool members.

There was a number of Scottish settlers in and around Evarts, and in the early 1920's, a St. Andrew's Society was formed. Many gatherings of a Scottish nature were held in the old school, particularly St. Andrew's night, and Burn's night. Of course, my parents belonged to this Society. Other entertainments were also held at Evarts, such as dances, concerts, box pie and shadow socials and the all important Christmas concert. The whole family was taken to these gatherings. Youngsters who went to sleep were wrapped in coats and blankets, and laid on top of the school desks, until such time as their parents were ready to go home. Of course the depression hit this district as everywhere, but the community learned to do without. We were also better neighbors. Each helped the other. Very few farmers were able to pay their taxes, so it took some years of better times to clear these debts. When the war of 1939-45 was declared, our youngest brother Wilson joined the Royal Canadian Armed



Mrs. Peter Cameron and family, 90th birthday. Peggy and Bob Bramall, Mr. and Mrs. Cameron, Alice and Harry Durward.



Wilson and Grant Cameron with Elsie McPherson.

Forces, in 1940, went overseas in 1942, and was killed in February, 1943.

Mother was an expert knitter and in both the First and Second Wars, knit countless pairs of socks as well as sewing articles for the Red Cross. After the last war, she received The Silver Cross, as well as the Red Cross service medal.

Alice married Harry Durward in 1939 and lived in Vancouver for some years, returning to Evarts in 1944. They have one son Wilson, now teaching in Toronto. I married Bob (W. E.) Bramall and we are still residing on our farm. We have a family of six.

In 1946, our parents retired to Sylvan Lake. Their garden was very colorful in the summer and through this medium they made many friends. Dad had enjoyed curling at Evarts, but after moving to Sylvan Lake, was able to enjoy the sport much more. Mother belonged to a number of organizations but the church and its activities held number one interest in both mother and dad's lives.

In 1950, our oldest brother Grant was killed in a logging accident at Prince George, British Columbia. Dad died in 1972, at 95 years of age.

Mother stayed in her home until 1974, when she moved into the Sylvan Lake Lodge. She passed away in October, 1976, a few days before her 99th birthday. They are all buried in the Red Deer Cemetery.

JIM CARROLLS

Jim and his wife the former Tena Sands came to N.W. 13-38-3-W5 to reside after the Siebel family left. Mrs. Carrolls assisted Mrs. David McNeil when she needed extra help such as threshing. Jim worked at odd jobs and was employed by John Watson for some time.

ED AND EILEEN CARTER — NW 2-38-3-5

It was in 1936 that I first moved to the Evarts district. My father, G. E. Carter, farmed in the Craig district a few miles south, and I went to school there, and later to high school in Innisfail. He wanted me to buy some land nearby and farm with him, but as there was no land available in that district, I bought a quarter, NW 35-37-3-5 in the Evarts district. The price was \$2500, about \$300 down and the rest over 20 years.

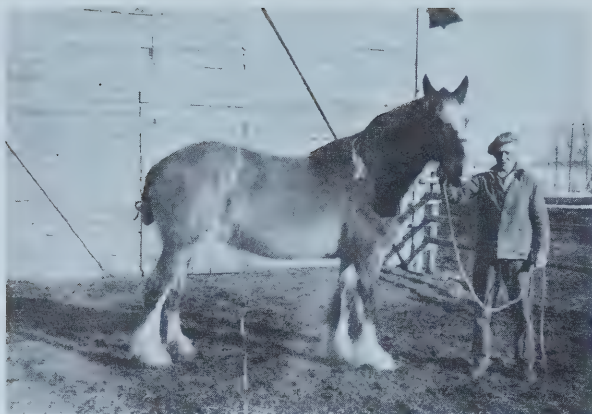
For several years I farmed this land with horses, living during the summer in a small house I built, and also helping my father farm his land, and living at home during the winter.

In 1941, I decided to enlist in the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, as they were sending men into the Provost Corps. I was accepted, and after disposing of my horses, and my car (a 1931 Chevrolet), I went to Edmonton, was sworn in and proceeded to Regina, Saskatchewan by C.N.R., where the R.C.M.P. Barracks was located. After graduating from the College there, I was sent out on detachment, and served in several places in Saskatchewan. By the time the war ended I had met Eileen who lived in Radville, where I was stationed. We were married, but not having sufficient service with the Mounted Police to become married, I left the Force and returned to the Evarts district where Eileen and I decided to try our hand at farming.

During my years there as a single man I had met many neighbors, so already knew most of them. Bill Thomas had rented my land while I was away, so he offered me his land to rent in return as he had purchased the Red Deer Ice Company and had moved into Red Deer. He let me have the use of all his machinery, horses, harness and tools, free for one year while he was establishing his ice company, and at the end of that time I could buy the equipment from him, so it was actually Bill Thomas that gave us our start there.

Eileen and I moved into his small house on the land adjoining our land and we farmed there for several years. Farming was indeed a lot of hard work then with very little power machinery. We bought some cows, pigs, chickens, furniture and seed grain and started our farming career. Our mail came out of Eckville on the rural route delivery, we bought our groceries in Evarts and Eckville, and grain was hauled to the elevators in Benalto.

Those years bring back a lot of pleasant memories to us especially our associations with our neighbors — the McNeil boys Willie McPhersons, Alex Duncans, Tom



Ed Carter — Clydesdale mare going to Red Deer Horse Sale, 1948.

and Ann Leithead, Kay and Nellie Watson, Chris and Lil Anderson, Royal and Christie Raymond, the Ingvar Ericksons, the Les Jarvis family and many others. Three years later, Dr. Frank Coppock informed us that Eileen was about to have twins, and William and Arthur were born in the Eckville Hospital.

In 1948 we sold our machinery and livestock at an auction sale. Clyde Stauffer was the auctioneer. We moved into Red Deer where my brother and I had bought a woodworking shop. Johnny Craig later bought our land from us.

Eileen and I are now living in Edmonton. Since 1953 I have been employed by the Highway Patrol Division, a provincial road patrol, where I am now an Inspector. Our two sons live in Calgary.

It seems strange to us to drive through the Evarts district now and see the change in the village, the power lines, the oil wells, the built up roads and many other new things, including new names on many mail boxes.

GLEN LESTER CATON

Glen L. Caton was born in Bales Country, Missouri, on October 7, 1882, the son of Harrison F. Caton, who was born in Ohio and Mrs. Helen Caton, who as Helen Whitlow was born in North Carolina. He was the youngest of a family of five, his father died when he was nine years of age. He went to Nebraska and then Montana before coming to Alberta with his brother, Charlie, in 1902.

They appear to have been the first to settle where the Medicine Valley swings westward into Township 38, range 4 and as range 4, west of the 5th meridian was not then surveyed, they squatted on the south half of section 12 and built a house on the south-east quarter. In 1903, they were joined by their widowed mother, a brother, Oscar (Doc) Caton and their two sisters, Sadie and Jessie. In the fall of 1903, Charlie went to Nome, Alaska, where he stayed a year and then returned to the State of Washington, where he died in 1930, at the age of 56 years.

Among Glen's earlier experiences was being a member of a timber cruising party that was commissioned to cruise a timber limit extending 60 miles up from the Clearwater gap which extended for three miles inland from both sides of the river, for the Great West

Lumber Company. Working without horses, halfbreeds brought in their supplies and from the company's standpoint, the project proved to be a disappointment for it was found that the limit did not include any stands of timber of commercial value.

In 1910, Glen was married to Catherine Stewart, the daughter of Angus D. and Jane (Stewart) Stewart, who came west with her parents from Ontario in 1905 to join her brother, Alexander M. Stewart, pioneer settler, who had first come to the area in 1901. In 1912, all of the Caton family, with the exception of Glen, left for the State of Washington.

Always keenly interested in community affairs, Glen was the first secretary of the Local Improvement District and was subsequently instrumental in the formation of the Rural Municipality of Raven Number 57 and of Gaetz school district number 1856 in 1909. He was the first secretary-treasurer of the school district, a position which he held for many years and he also served as trustee. He was also on the first committee formed to build and operate the community hall and he served on the Eckville Hospital Board and as a director of the Eckville Co-op. Another capacity in which he became very well known throughout all of the west country was as the clerk at auction sales.

His brother, Doc, came back to the district with his wife in 1917 and his wife taught at Gaetz School in 1918 and 1919. They returned to the United States in 1923 and Doc died on September 10, 1952 and is buried in California. His wife lives in Colorado, where their only daughter, Ruth, also resides. Glen's mother died in the State of Washington in 1925 and his sister, Jessie, returned to the Diamond Valley district and married Alex Stewart in 1936.

Alex passed away in 1964, his wife Jessie is 96 years of age and resides at Valley Park Manor.

Sadie returned to the district in 1960, after Alex's death. The sisters lived together in Red Deer. Sadie passed away in 1972.

With a host of friends among both young and old, Glen remained on the homestead, farming and raising beef cattle until a heart attack, suffered after returning from a visit to his wife who was in hospital in Red Deer, terminated his career in March 1957 at the age of 75. He is buried in the Diamond Valley cemetery. After Mr.



Glen and Catherine Caton.



Jessie Stewart, Glen and Sadie Caton.

Catons death, Mrs. Caton continued to live on the farm with son Harold, until her health failed and she was confined to the Doctor Richard Parsons Auxiliary Hospital at Red Deer. At the age of 81 years she passed away in 1969.

Cecil R., entered the service of the Imperial Bank of Canada and was stationed at Sylvan Lake, Wetaskiwin and Eckville, prior to enlisting for overseas service in 1940 with the Royal Canadian Artillery in the Second World War. Following demobilization, he rejoined the bank at Athabasca and later was stationed at Moose Jaw, Grande Prairie and Edmonton and he was manager of the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce Branch at Stony Plain, Alberta. He just recently retired from the bank and resides in Calgary. He married Eleanor Galbraith and has a son and daughter. **Claude** married May Medin of Eckville, they have one son Stuart. They farm the land homesteaded by his uncle, Doc. **Edith** married Gordon Meyers, have two boys and live at Manning, Alberta. **Harold** is farming the home farm. **Russell** married Margaret Morris of Pincher Creek and they have a boy and girl. **Gordon** married Myrtle Chamney of Clive and has four children. Russell and Gordon, both served overseas in the Second World War, they have operated a farm machinery and dairy supplies business under the name of Caton's of Red Deer for several years. **Ethel** married Gordon Wilson of Kevisville and lives in that district. **Lillian** became Mrs. Don Major of Rocky Mountain House. They have five children (two sets of twins) they live in New Westminster, British Columbia. **Dorothy** married Robert Parks. They live at Rocky Mountain House and have four children. **Marjorie** graduating in nursing, married Elmer Haupt and they have two children. They live on their farm in the New Hill district.

ARTHUR AND CHARLES CHANDLER

Arthur and Charles Chandler moved to the Evarts district in August of 1965.

They had previously farmed on a location four miles north of Spruce View where their parents had started on a homestead in the spring of 1904.



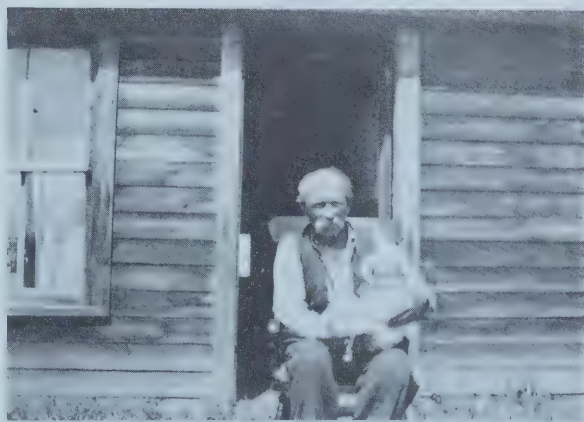
Chandler brothers home.

This farm, which consisted of a half-section, was sold to Mr. and Mrs. Eldo Flake of Markerville in 1965, as Arthur and Charles now wished to retire from active farming.

After looking over locations in British Columbia and other parts of Alberta, they decided to purchase an acreage held by Mr. Earl Klammer, in the northeast corner of N.E. 4-38-2-W5 where they reside at the present time.

JERRY CHAPMAN

Jerry came from Nebraska and built a sod shack, the roof and floor were boards, on S.E. 13-38-3-W5. He was



Jerry Chapman holding Lloyd McNeil, 1923.

a bachelor and a kind old gentleman. One old timer remarked that Jerry used to work for Mr. Ivy and he could build the "best stacks" of hay. Jerry lived for some years with Tom Simmons right in the village of Evarts.

TONY AND MARY CHILIBECK — by Mary Chilibeck

Tony and I were married in 1947 and we began our farming venture in the Spring Creek district. In 1957, we sold our farm and moved to the Pine Hill district to rent my dad's, (Nick Eliuk's) farm. In 1963, we bought our



Tony Chilibeck family, Tony, Mary, Ron, Pat, Danny, Gary.

present farm in the Evarts district. We purchased this land from Jim Romaine, who had a few years previously bought it from Louis Kathol.

We have four children, **Ronald, Patricia, Gerald, and Daniel**. They took their schooling at Hairy Hill, Marker-ville, and Sylvan Lake. Ron and Gerald continued their education at the Red Deer College and the University of Alberta in Edmonton.

Pat and Bill Parks were married in 1970 and they live in Calgary, where Bill is assistant manager for the Crown Tire Company. They have two children, Robert and Chad.

Ron and Judy Waymark were married in 1972, and they reside in Edmonton where Ron is Systems Analyst for the Provincial Computing Systems Division. Judy is executive secretary in Government Services.

Dan and Laurie Solberg were married in 1975 and they live at Strathmore, where Dan is Manager of the Co-op lumber yard.

Gerald got his degree in zoology, and was married in August 1976. His wife Dianne Sisson, has another year of University left before she begins her career in teaching.

CHARLIE CHILSON

Charlie lived on N.W. 24-38-3-W5, the land that is now owned by Lorne (Tuny) Nielsen. He kept a lot of sheep on his farm; where coyotes were plentiful and proved a problem to him. Mr. Chilson was one of the voters present for bonding the right to build a school in 1903.

THE COUNNIC FAMILY — by Louise Feys

We, the Counnic family, were born at Rapid City, South Dakota, Pennington County. Dad was born in Michigan, United States, Mother came from Germany in the late 1800's. **Roy** was born in 1902, **Rudy** in 1904, **Louise** in 1906 and **Lydia** in 1908.

We moved to Stettler, Alberta in August, 1913 and lived there until May of 1916. All of the family had the flu in 1918 and recovered without any bad effects. We moved to Lousana, Delburne and Trochu in 1919, we went where ever Dad could get work. There were pretty hard times in those days.



Louise, Rudy and Roy Counnic.



Rudy Counnic family.

In the fall of 1921, Roy and Rudy went west to Benalto and Evarts districts looking for work, and then moved our parents up to the Happy Hill district where our older sister and husband Walter Hopcraft had rented a farm. In 1922, Rudy went to work for Orla Nielsen of Evarts, he also worked for Orla's brother Dewey, then I believe in 1927, Rudy and Roy rented the Bob Black farm, S.E. 26-38-3-W5.

Rudy was interested in all kinds of sports, baseball, curling, he rode in the Benalto Stampede, bronc riding,

steer riding and bull-dogging. Dewey Nielsen and Rudy also put on some boxing matches. Rudy had two coyote hounds, Tige and Spider, guess they were known around Evarts about as well as Rudy. In 1930 Rudy took up a homestead at Horburg, Alberta. He married Lena Belle Fry of Horburg, they had a son and twin daughters. He hunted big game and was a guide for many hunters. Before his passing, he was operating a tie camp and mill. He died in July 1943 at the age of 39 years from a tonsillectomy, too much ether. A very sad loss for the family.

GEORGE COWIE FAMILY — Written by Geo. Cowie Sr.

I came to Canada from Aberdeen, Scotland, in 1923, as a harvester. Mrs. Cowie, with George, Fleury and Myrtle, followed me the next year. Mrs. Allen, my mother-in-law, joined us from there in 1927. She passed away in Prince Rupert in 1944, where I was employed in war work in the shipyard.

We moved to Evarts from Edmonton in 1930, to work for the late John Watson. In the fall of 1934, we moved into Red Deer, where we have been since, except for the time in war work. I assisted in the building of the Dairy Pool (condensery) and worked for them until I retired in 1965.

George lives in Cranbrook, where he is manager of a Moving and Storing Warehouse. He has a son, and daughter in Winnipeg, one in New Westminster, and one at home. **Fleury**, lives in Red Deer. Her husband, E. A. Hanson is a Building Contractor. Fleury's son Jimmy, is Dr. J. Hanson (veterinary), in the research laboratory at the University of Alberta in Edmonton. He has done a lot of work on diseases of chickens. **Myrtle** lives on Vancouver Island, her hubby is a skipper of a Fishery Patrol boat, and patrols up and down the west coast. **Donald** lives in Calgary and is Deputy General — yard master for C.P.R. He lost his wife last year. He has a daughter married in Edmonton, one in the University of Calgary, and he is marrying again this spring. **Sheila** is here in town, and is married with a son, Don Macbeth, who is a jockey in Florida. **Jean**, in the airforce with her husband in New Brunswick, is retiring this year. She has a son and daughter in Ottawa. The son is married, and the daughter is in the University in Halifax.

THE CRAIG FAMILY

Jesse and **Mert** Craig came from Ripon, Wisconsin, to the Evarts district (known now as Happy Hill) in 1903. Jesse homesteaded the S.W. 24-37-3-W5 and Mert, the South East quarter of the same section. Mert was interested in steam engineering and worked much of the time in saw mills and with threshing outfits while Jessie's main interest was livestock. The two brothers built a log shack on Jesse's land and later one on Merts too.

The following winter Jesse returned to Wisconsin and came back in the spring of 1904 with a carload of settlers-effects. Mert proved up on his homestead in 1906 and returned to Wisconsin to live. Jesse purchased this homestead.

When Jesse was en route with his car of settler-effects in 1904, the train was stranded in a blizzard for a time. While there, he met up with Bob and Bill Armstrong who were coming from Arkansas with two carloads of settlers-effects, going to Red Deer.



Pearl and Jesse Craig, 1958.



Hal, Jesse, Mert Craig.

Armstrongs settled on S.W. 1-39-3-W5. The little hamlet of Evarts was the trading centre and post office for both families for a number of years. Some time after their arrival, Jesse rode horseback to visit the Armstrong family. When he rode up, Pearl Armstrong looked out of the tent, and to make a long story short, they were married in October 1909. The home that Jesse built the summer before they were married still stands on the home farm and is presently occupied.

Jesse always had a lot of livestock — especially horses, and there was nothing he enjoyed more than dealing and dickering. This called for more land and hired help.

Needless to say, Mrs. Craig had plenty of work to do too, and often kept a hired girl. She could sure whip up a meal in a hurry for almost any number that arrived at her door — sometimes quite a few.

In 1910, a baby boy was born to the Craigs, named **John Robert**, and almost seven years later, **Hal** arrived to complete the Craig family.

Jesse contributed much to the community and took an interest in all of the goings on. He served as a school trustee for the Happy Hill School and secretary of the same for many years.

He toyed with the idea of moving to British Columbia and, in fact, traded a half section, which he owned north of Markerville, for a parcel of land at Armstrong, British Columbia. The family weren't too happy with the idea, so he sold it.

Through the years, he traded a number of his horses to Stewart Brothers of Penhold for machinery and cleared and broke a number of acres of land. He also traded horses for a 1927 Star car, a plow and tractor.

In 1930, the barn that still stands, was built and the house remodelled by Hillman Brothers and Arnie Bardal.

By this time he had gone into grain farming, although he kept a herd of cattle, beginning with Shorthorns and eventually raising Herefords. John purchased land in the Diamond Valley district — the N.E. 9-38-3-W5, in 1934. In 1938, he was married to Neva Crawford and they made their home there until the spring of 1974, when they retired from active farming. They still live in the district.

Hal married Patricia Savage in 1943 and at this time, Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Craig retired from farming. They spent one winter at the coast, returning in the spring to make their home at Sylvan Lake. Mr. Craig passed away in 1959 and Mrs. Craig in 1962.

Hal D. Craig, the only other brother of Jesse and Mert, came to Alberta in 1911, for his first visit, and purchased land at five dollars per acre. He sold it to Jesse and bought land at Big Bend. Mert and Hal purchased the S.W. 12-37-3 W5, farmed by Carl Lemke in 1931. Hal, later, purchased section 21 in the Happy Hill district which he still owns.

Hal never lived in Canada. He was a United States surveyor until his retirement. He now resides at Ripon, Wisconsin and for the last number of years, he and his wife have spent their summers at Sylvan Lake, at their cottage. They have one son, John who resides at Madison Wisconsin, with his wife and two children.

THE CRAWFORD FAMILY

Robert and Mae Crawford came from Grande Forks, Minnesota. Mr. Crawford looked around Saskatchewan, where he filed on a homestead. He later came to Alberta and did not return to the homestead, so was not able to file on one in Alberta. He liked the country around Red Deer, so the family joined him in 1905. They spent one year there and then moved to the Happy Hill district. They made the trip from Red Deer with a team of horses and wagon, and their first home was built of logs.

They had five daughters, **Pearl**, **Agnes**, **Frances**, **Louise** and **Temple** and one son, **Andrew**. When they



Louise, Temple, Agnes, Mr. Crawford, Andy, Mrs. Crawford, Francis and Neva.

arrived in the Happy Hill district their closest neighbours were Mr. and Mrs. John Sydle and family and two bachelors, Ben Dunsmore and Charles Hendrickson. The children were quite taken with Charles Hendrickson's table which sat in one corner of his house and its base was a tree stump.

The older children attended school at Happy Hill and their teacher was Miss Dennis.

After two years, Mr. Crawford sold his land to Ben Reighley and moved his family to the Diamond Valley district. This land was rented from Mattias Leggott (S.E. 5-38-3 W5).

Diamond Valley did not have a school at this time so the children attended the Gaetz school with Miss Amos as their teacher. The Crawfords had five school-age children and together with the other children already in the district, there was a real need for a school closer at hand. Since they were only renting, the neighbors thought best to hurry their endeavour to obtain a school in the district, seeing there had to be a certain number of school-age children in the district before their request would be granted. Thus, Diamond Valley school No. 2154 was built in 1910 and opened in April 1911, with Kate Pendergast from Nova Scotia as teacher.

Another daughter, **Neva**, was born while the Crawfords resided on the Leggott place. Later, the family moved to the Arthur Farror place (the east half of section 15). The family lived on several other rented farms before buying the S.W. 16-38-3 W5, in 1920, from Carol Record. There were 13 acres under cultivation when it was purchased. During the next 12 years, Mr. Crawford and his son Andrew, cleared by hand, about 112 acres and broke it with horses.

Mr. Crawford passed away in 1940. Mrs. Crawford and Andy continued to live on the farm. Mrs. Crawford passed away in 1951.

Andy was married to Anna Liner of Rimbey in 1949. They continued to live on the family farm until their retirement.

The eldest daughter Pearl, married Sid Satchwill. She passed away in 1919, leaving one son Walter, who now resides at Golden, British Columbia.

Agnes, who was Mrs. Dan High, resided most of her married life in Red Deer, where her husband was

employed as engineer at the Provincial Training School. They had one daughter Marion, who lives in Calgary. Mrs. High passed away in 1968 and her husband in 1973.

Louise married William Thomas some time after his return from overseas in the first world war. They lived in Calgary for a number of years and eventually moved to a farm in the Evarts district, then to Red Deer. they had one son, Bill, who resides at Fairview. Mrs. Thomas passed away in 1969 and her husband in 1971.

Frances married James Bird, who worked as a grain elevator agent at various places in Alberta. They had one son and one daughter. The son, Kenneth joined the Services and served in Germany for some time and in Calgary after returning to Canada. He was married and had four children. He passed away in 1971 and his wife resides in Calgary. The daughter, Doreen, is married and lives on a farm at Three Hills. They have four children. James Bird passed away in 1961 and Mrs. Bird still lives at Ponoka.

Temple taught school at various places in Alberta and married William Campbell, who worked for Alberta Government Telephones. Their two daughters are married and each have two children. Audrey lives at Claresholm and Rilla, at Calgary. Mr. Campbell passed away in 1966 and Mrs. Campbell lives in Calgary.

Andy and his wife retired from the farm and moved to Red Deer in 1970, where they still make their home. Andy's nephew lives on his farm.

Neva married John Craig and still resides in the community. They retired from active farming in 1974. They have two sons and one daughter. The daughter Maureen, lives at Penhold, is married and has three children. Murray, his wife and daughter live on the family farm. Brian has taken over the original Crawford farm and has lived there for three years.

FRANK CUDDIHEY — Written by Mrs. Nicholas McGoey and John Cuddihey

Francis James Cuddihey was born May 18, 1884, son of John Cuddihey and Mary Ann Kealy of Aylivia, Quebec. He was educated in the local Catholic schools. In his early years, he worked on his father's farm in the Gatineau Valley, about 40 miles from Ottawa, Ontario. He had six sisters and six brothers. In 1910, he went to Gilbert, Minnesota, to work for his brother-in-law, Mr. W. Hogan who ran a livery barn. He enjoyed this very much — driving horses. Shortly, the street cars came and there was no more need of horses.

Frank then started doing steam shovel work. He was an engineer by trade. His mother was anxious for him to quit that work, because his older brother, Joseph was killed in Virginia, Minnesota, February 28, 1911, while working on a steam shovel. He was 30 years old. Frank liked farming much better. He quit the shovel and bought a farm in Evarts, SE 11-38-3-5. I don't know what year he started there. He was a small man but made big money and a true friend of everyone. He used to say, if he had gotten married, he would be a millionaire.

He drove two teams of horses at the same time, having to be up early to feed them before himself. He also kept pigs and made money out of them. He put up a granary first, and lived in it while he was building his nice dwelling house. It was only the last few years he bought a tractor. Farming was a little better for Frank then.



Frank Cuddihey with niece Lila, 1949.

Sickness came and he had to leave it all. His nephew, John Cuddihey, was working with him at that time. John took Frank to the Eckville hospital, where he stayed for a few weeks. His sister Sarah and two brothers, Michael and Albert, came to see him and took him to Martindale, Quebec, where he lived with his sister, Mrs. Nicholas McGoey. That was April 1950. Frank appointed his brother, D. J. Cuddihey, to take care of his property, and after his death, his brother sold the farm to Mr. Lloyd McNeil and divided Frank's money between his two sisters and four brothers. The rest of the family predeceased him some years ago. Francis James Cuddihey died October 23, 1952, at 68 years of age. Burial was in St. Martin's cemetery in Martindale, Quebec.

Note-Frank's many neighbors will remember his Irish accent and often his jovial greeting "Top of the mornin'."

MELVIN DAVIES

Melvin and his wife purchased the N.W. 14-38-3-W5 from Wm. Stredwick. They had a daughter **Margaret** and son **Bob** who was in the services and died in the war. They sold out to John Watson. In the late forties they visited their old home, Kay and Nellie Watson were living there then. At that time they lived at Okotoks in southern Alberta. They visited the cemetery west of Evarts, where a member of their family is buried.

STANLEY AND OLIVER DOBSON — N.W. 12-38-3-W5

The first Dobson boy to come west was Norman Robert. He lived and taught school in the Daisy Nook district. His two brothers, Stan and Oliver, came west a year or two later, to farm at Evarts, and that is how Stanley and Jessie McLeod met. Norman married Lillian Whittle of Daisy Nook. They had three children, Gor-

don, Marjorie and Beatrice. They moved to Calgary where ill health forced Norman to retire. He passed away at 34 years of age.

In 1926, Jessie McLeod and Stanley Dobson were married and in 1928, Oliver and Stan sold their farm and returned to Ontario, with a small daughter **Ivy**, in March. Five more children were born to this marriage. One boy **Norman** died in infancy. Four girls, and two boys, who are all married with families between Kitchener, Galt, London and Toronto.

Perhaps of interest is one daughter, of Stan and Jessie, **Dorothy** Dumont, London, Ontario, who is a talented singer on television, government functions and sings in the United Church choir in London. In fact in the summer of 1976, she visited the Evarts area, particularly interested in the abandoned church at Evarts, where her mother had been christened as a baby.

Stan Dobson passed away after a lengthy illness on January 18, 1976 at 83 years of age.

For 15 or 20 years, Jessie had a craft business and was the wage earner in later years. In fact she still makes crafts and sells them every Saturday, when her health permits. She is now in her seventies.

DUNCAN FAMILY —by Mrs. L. Duncan S.E. 2-38-3-5

Alex Duncan came to Canada from Scotland in 1911. He worked with A. McPherson freighting from Red Deer to Rocky Mountain House. The only way to travel those days was with horses and sleighs and wagons. There was just a cattle trail through Snake Lake (Sylvan Lake). Alex joined the forces when war broke out in 1915. He



Mr. and Mrs. Alec Duncan and Evelyn.

was wounded in France in 1916, in the battle of the Somme, and was admitted to the war hospital where I was working. We were married in 1918, and Alex was discharged in Calgary in February 1919. I came out from Nottingham, England, August 1919, to Evarts. Our farm was the homestead which at one time belonged to Mr. Forhan.

The first winter was very severe with lots of snow, and terribly cold. Our nearest neighbors were McPherson's and Billy Woof. Our nearest Doctor was Red Deer. I (being a nurse) was called up sometimes to help, and sometimes to act as undertaker. I was called one day. A neighbor was sick. I was baking bread that day, so I wrapped the pan up with blankets and took the team and cutter and brought the bread back that night — baked — it was the best bread I ever made.

We sold the farm in 1947 and retired to Sylvan Lake. Alex passed away ten months later.

Alex was Secretary treasurer for the Happy Hill School for 20 years. He was also Councillor for the Golden West a number of years, and on the first Eckville Hospital Board when it was built. Dr. Coppock was the doctor there then. I also recall Dr. Sommerville and Dr. Backaus. I never charged for any nursing I did in the district.

We have one daughter **Evelyn** who married Marshall Clarke of Drumheller. They have four children and eight grandchildren. Note — Mrs. Duncan died December 1975.

HARRY DURWARD SE 9-38-2-W5

Harry Durward came from Aberdeenshire, Scotland in 1929, to Edmonton, where he was to work as a blacksmith. By the time he arrived, T. Eaton Company had bought the block to build their present store, and so the blacksmith-shop had to be torn down. He then went to work shoeing horses in a lumber camp north of Edmonton. Harry then worked on farms in the Winterburn area.

In 1931, Harry moved to the Marianne district with the late Alex Walker, who had come from Winterburn and farmed the land owned by Trimble's of Red Deer, and later owned by Stainor Valli. In 1938, Harry moved to Kamloops where he worked at Tranquille Sanitarium. In 1939, Alice Christina Mary Cameron, came from Evarts, and they were married at Kamloops, living there until 1941, when they moved to Vancouver. During the war, Harry worked in the Post Office and the Vancouver Library. After leaving there, he worked at McAllister Spring Works, which was the only large spring-making shop in Vancouver at that time. Besides making all car and truck springs, they made the springs for Army, Navy and Air force. Springs were also made in this factory for Hastings Park Amusement Centre equipment, such as roller coasters. Harry made the rings to hold the boat when they were working on Ripple Rock, blasting it.

In 1946, they moved to the farm owned by P. N. Cameron, where they still farm. They are members of the Presbyterian Church, and the Benalto Agricultural Society, in which Harry was secretary for the Stampede for 25 years, and Alice has worked with the agricultural department. Alice was a member of the Ladies Aid at Evarts, and a charter member of the Evarts Community

Club. Harry served on the Evarts Hall Board from the late 40's until it was taken over by the Community Club.

Alice and Harry have a son **Wilson** who was born in Vancouver. He took his schooling at Evarts until it was closed, then went to Sylvan Lake, and Red Deer. Wilson is well remembered for his gift of music especially in voice. Wilson went on to further his education in Edmonton with two years of University. He taught in Red Deer, and Toronto, then in 1971, he went to England for three and one-half years in the field of entertainment. He then returned to Toronto, where he is engaged in teaching today.

HILDING ENGMAN

Hilding, son of Mr. and Mrs. Eric Engman, was born in Sweden. He came to Canada with his parents, to the New Hill district in 1911. He served with the Armed Forces in various countries from 1940-1945. He married Evelyn Bystrom, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Swan Bystrom, who came to the Happy Hill district in 1902. They lived on S.W. 24-38-3-W5 for three years in the Evarts district leaving in 1940.

Their family was **Harold** and **Vernon** of Lacombe, **Shirley** of Wetaskiwin, **Steven** in Red Deer and **Marilyn** of Stettler.

Hilding passed away January 1977.

THOREL EYMUNDSON — Barney Eymundson

My grandfather Sigurdur (Victor) Eymundson, and his brother John immigrated to Pembina, North Dakota in 1880, to homestead land there. My grandfather passed away in North Dakota, at an early age, and my grandmother, Johanna, with her children; Thorel, Charlie, John, Harry, Thorberger, and one daughter Julia, went to Fort Garry, (Winnipeg) and on to Calgary. The family stayed in Calgary for a few years, where the boys worked for various employers, Eau Claire Lumber Co., Calgary Brewing and Malting, and the famous lawyer, Paddy Nolan, where Thorel was coachman. One of Paddy Nolan's stipulations was that at all times there should be two Winchester rifles in the racks, and 200 rounds of ammunition. During the summer months, a plentiful supply of ammunition was used in exercising the horses.

Johanna (Grandma) Eymundson remarried to Vigfus Haldorson, and were one of the first to homestead in the Medicine Valley, on N.E. 32-37-2-W. 5. When they moved to Vancouver in 1910, my father bought the land from them, and later sold the house to the Robertson brothers, (Dave and Robert.)

John Eymundson homesteaded a quarter north of Big Bend school, and later sold to John Wilson of Innisfail. Harry, homesteaded N.W. 32-37-2-W. 5. John, Thorel, and Harry together bought a Canadian Pacific Railway quarter. My father, Thorel, applied for S.W. 32-37-2-W5 in 1888, and the government reserved it for him until he became of age, which was 1892, being born in Saudaness, Iceland, July 8, 1871.

Thorel Eymundson, married Laura Bjarnadottir from Rjekjauvik, Iceland, in 1904, and they had three children. Barney (myself), Johanna Asey, and Christopher.

When the Eymundsons and other settlers were moving to the Medicine Valley, they camped about a week on the south bank of the Red Deer River, west of Poplar

Grove (Innisfail), while they were constructing a temporary ferry. Finally, they had all their belongings across the river. Oxen were not used for power a great deal, but instead they had mustangs, or Indian ponies as they were called. The Indian pony was not suitable for working in harness, as they would balk when the load became too heavy. However, the Indian cross was a big improvement. The distinguishing marks of the mustang was the Roman nose and quite often one pink eye, also heavy whiskers which could be waxed to add a military appearance, which was done by pranksters once in a while, when a lot of horses were at the hitching rail in town. With all their faults, the Indian pony was superior to the oxen for the early settlers, even though they were just plain lazy.

The first breaking of land done in the Medicine Valley was done with a 12 inch walking plow, and later came the Van Slyke wooden beam 16 inch mouldboard walking plows. The breaking was mostly of an easy nature, for example about 80 acres of the N.E. 32-37-2-W5 was almost entirely prairie wool.

Big game was almost non-existent in the area, so the wild meat was supplied by birds at the fall of the year, and after freeze up, the men used to go east on the ridge and hunt rabbits and with their muzzle-loaders using lead pellets which they made themselves. Lead from the tea cartons was always saved for the making of shot. They used to try to store from 100-200 rabbits, which helped to supplement the winter's meat supply. Prairie chickens were found in fair numbers on the school section 29-37-2-W5, and Oli Norman's place also.

Firewood was scarce in the valley. The school section had short birch willow on the draw N.W. of the Dooney place, and the draw on S.W. 32-37-2-W. 5. Some large willows were to be found in the coulee south-east of the Hudson-Bay ford on the Medicine River, which was part of the trail to Fort Rocky. Due to this shortage of wood, the settlers used to go to the New Hill area, where there was an abundance of burned poplar, and hauled out the year's supply of wood during the winter months.

Money was hard to come by for the early settlers. A prime coyote was only worth about 50 cents, and weasel and muskrat comprised the only other fur bearers. There were no beaver, as they had been cleaned out by the early trappers. Thorel hauled freight with a four-horse team from Red Deer to Rocky Mountain House when they were constructing the railroad to Rocky and Nordegg. During the summer when conditions were not the very best for hauling, the freight wagons would spent the first night at Burnt Lake, the second at Evarts, the third night at Lunds, or Morgeaus, and hope to be in Rocky by the fourth night.

The roofs for the first buildings were made with a whip-saw. Later on the lumber was sawn and available from Petterfer's (limit) as it was known then. They had their limit west of Morgeaus.

The threshing of grain was done from stacks only and was generally completed by Christmas. It was a common practice to sack the grain at the separator. The spout had a lock on it and the grain pipe would hold a few bushels before it would plug the weigher, which served a good purpose in case the sacker was absent-minded. As a rule the farmer was supposed to look after the grain end of the proceedings. As a rule the stack crew consisted of 10-12

men, the engineer, fireman, water-tank man, separator man, and four bundle pitchers. The bundle pitchers were as follows — the spike pitcher, who fed the bundles into the machine, and the pitchers who had to run around the stack and pick up bundles and lay them at the feet of Mr. Spike-pitcher. I presume you had to have either rich relatives or political pull to become a spike-pitcher. The steam whistle woke everybody up at five o'clock in the morning for breakfast and work commenced at seven o'clock with coal-oil lanterns bobbing all over the place. The steamers as a rule used to start tooting about half a mile from your place before arrival, I think they had a road speed of half a mile per hour, so everybody was well warned. The first steamer in the valley was owned by the Young brothers. They homesteaded the quarter which Doug Ball later lived on. The next steamer in the valley was Bardal brothers (Julius, Helgi, Paul and Arni). Benedisht Bardahl erected his buildings slightly farther north than Joe Key who had the land later. The next steamer in the valley was "Big Johnson", the Schill brothers, Emil and Albin. They had the honor of being the largest and also the last steam outfit of that type. The Wilson's of Markerville had a hand-feed separator with a straw carrier, which was powered by four horses going around in a circle and thereby furnishing the power to the jack as it was called. One disadvantage was that the horses would have to trot in order to have sufficient cylinder speed. Wilson's did a few jobs in the south part of the valley, but mostly in Yankee Flats (Spruce View). Thorel bought a Model T Ford touring car from Sam Smith of the Smith brothers Island Ranch in 1916, and sold it to Joe (Kjartan) Johannson in 1920.

The government telephone line came through from Markerville and went north as far as the Island Ranch possibly 1912 or 1913. That was a big improvement. It did have its disadvantages. Some people had ticking pendulum clocks, others had chime clocks, so if you were carrying on a conversation on the hour or half hour, it might have sounded like pandemonium breaking loose with from five to ten clocks going at the same time.

The weather in the valley had always been variable, for example, the John Olson slough was dry in 1887 and 1967. In 1925 on August 27, about 12-18 inches of snow fell and several farmers did not have their oats cut. This forced them to have to cut them all one way. In August, 1926, a severe hail storm hit south of Evarts, cutting down the crops and leaving the ground almost black. A few farmers tried to rake the straw, but it was cut too fine for the rake to pick up. In the fall of 1930 on October 19, there was about 12 inches of snowfall, followed by 20 degrees below temperatures, and the river and sloughs froze up. However in about two weeks, the snow was gone and that was the open winter, the winter of severe dust storms. Still on weather, the 27 of April, 1920, there was still two feet of snow on the ground and a south-east blizzard. Temperatures that night went down to ten degrees below in Edmonton. I presume that spring break-up could not have occurred before the seventh of May. This was referred to as the year of the big floods.

The Medicine River was used by the Great West Lumber Company of Red Deer, to drive logs down from the Lobstick and Horsegaurd areas. However the last year they used it, they lost most of their logs in coulees

and backwaters, caused by the Medicine being too high that year.

My father Thorel, farmed in the valley until April 26, 1920 at which time he sold his stock and equipment and moved to Prince Rupert, British Columbia. He came back to the farm in 1923 and farmed until November 27, 1927 when he again moved to Prince Rupert. When we moved to Prince Rupert in 1920, my dad bought a 42 foot fishing boat the "White Star". I fished with dad for a season, but he went out early the following season, and was caught in a storm along the Panhandle off Alaska, and lost the boat. He bought another boat, the "Laura E", I took a practical navigation course and spent about three months with dad. I might add that he continued fishing until he was 74 years old and had no damage to his boat after the "White Star". I went to work on one of the tug boats the "Billy Boy" owned by Bill Smith. I must have missed my ancestral calling, because I did not care for the ocean. I next tried the coastal steamers and worked on the "S.S. Prince John" as a steward for three months on the Vancouver to Skagway run. Even though I had developed a good set of sea legs, I definitely preferred terra firma.

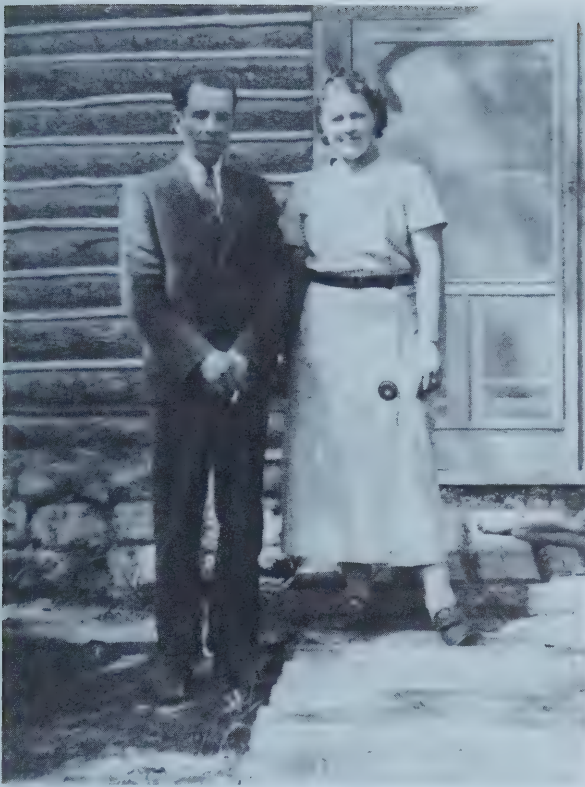
Johanna Asey, born April 13, 1907, now lives in North Surrey, British Columbia (Mrs. Bernard Jaun). **Christopher**, born May 14, 1909, lives at Clatskanie, Oregon, United States, and yours truly, **Barney** lives at Flatbush. My father passed away November 23, 1961 at Prince Rupert.

BARNEY EYMUNDSON

I was born April 20, 1905, the first white child in the north part of the Medicine Valley. My father had applied for his homestead when he was under age, in 1888, and it was reserved for him until 1892, when he was allowed to file on it. We farmed in the Evarts district until 1920, at which time we moved to Prince Rupert for three years, again returning to Evarts until 1927, when we again went back to Prince Rupert. It was here my father went fishing for the rest of his life. I had various jobs in the Evarts district and Prince Rupert. I went to Smithers, British Columbia, and worked for the Empress News, and in July, 1925 I left for Sunny Alberta for a holiday and decided to stay permanently. In 1926 I went to work for Frank Jackson, north of Hanna, and in September, 1928, I went to work in the Benalto Hotel and sold the stock on hand in January, 1931. In looking back on that phase, it was very interesting, but after the Wall street crash in 1929, the business dropped off continually, and when I balanced my books on January 31, I only had \$60.00 profit for the three months period.

I was again back at odd jobs, but had the good-fortune to work with two master-craftsmen and carpenters, John and Peter Hillman. The final result of that was that I built a few buildings in the area, the last building I constructed was a barn for William Hansen of Happy Hill.

While I was on the odd-job area, I worked for the School Division during summer holidays. I did one job that was not in my district. It was for the late John Olsen. John had more work than he could accomplish before school started, and he explained to me, that if I would paint the floor of the Centerville school for him, he would be able to have the other schools finished for the fall



Barney and Shana Eymundson, 1936.

term. I accepted the job with the provision that Kari Olsen help me. We left John's in good time in the morning, stacked the desks and furniture out of the way, cleaned the floor very well, spent about an hour or so mixing the paint to the proper consistency and we started in the far corner of the school. I poured the paint on the floor and Kari brushed it out with my two-foot hair broom. The job was completed before dinner, so I said to Kari we had better load up and drop the left-over paint, etcetera at his dad's. Kari said we couldn't do that, as we were expected to spend all day, so we leisurely took off and spent the afternoon in the pub at Sylvan Lake, getting back to John's for supper. I did not see John again until the winter holidays, when he complimented us on having done such a fine job. Kari and I never dared to tell him the method we used.

In 1934, I went to the Flatbush area and filed on a homestead S.W. 31-65-26-4. In other words, I bet the government ten dollars that I could prove it up. It was a challenge, being virgin country, with the high land covered with heavy aspen spruce, or pine. There were no roads, no big bull-dozers, and very little money. If you had the money at that time, you could get an acre cleared for \$15.00. It was all trees over five inches, grubbed out by the roots, and the limbs and small stuff piled and ready to burn. The land-owner had to dispose of the trunks, etcetera. There were no roads, just wagon trails. When you went to the nearest town, by car, you carried a double bitted axe and a round nosed shovel with you. With these you could bridge or detour the mud holes. I put up some log buildings on the homestead in 1935. The

sawed lumber I required cost me \$8.00 per thousand delivered at that time.

In 1936, June 1, Shauna and I were married in Ponoka. **Harry Christian** was born October 25, 1937, and deceased November 8, 1957. **Thorel Charles** was born April 29, 1941. He married Nancy Loziak and has two children, Helgi Harry, and Brenda Lee. They have a trailer in our yard. Thorel works on heavy lift cranes in the summer at McMurray, in the fall he does big game guiding, and later he does trapping during the winter. **Julia Jane** was born August 24, 1945. She married Maurice E. Bolduc. They have three children; Sheldon, Janice, and Monique Leslie. They have a trailer in our yard also. Maurice is permanently employed with Western Geophysical as a shooter.

I went to work for the Department of Highways as a grader man in 1948 and spent four years at that. The employment was seasonal and I used to trap in the slack season. Fur was fairly plentiful. In 1952 I was employed as a district foreman for Improvement District 107 and spent 18 years at that until my retirement in 1970. It was extremely interesting work and gratifying. I had the pleasure of supervising over 300 miles of graded road and 90 some odd miles of that being 100 foot right-of-way. During my time with the department, I learned to do a bit of surveying, and after my retirement, I worked three summers seasons on construction, two of them in Swan Hills.

In summing up my life, as regards to the highlights, my wife and family come first. Shauna has been looking after the best concessions at the Cross Lake Provincial Park for 13 years, besides looking after her family and doting over the lovely grandchildren. The next would be all the lovely people that I have met and it has been my pleasure to associate with them down through the years.

THE CARL FEITL FAMILY — by Martha Feitl

Carl Feitl came to Canada from Jennersdorf, Austria, in April 1928, at the age of nineteen years. He got off the train at Hespero, and rode in a wagon driven by Mr. E. Gaetz, to the Evergreen district where his brother Frank was employed. After resting for a few days, he found employment with the William Schuneman family, in the Bluebell district, where he worked for three years.

In 1932, he came to the Evarts district, and stayed with Mr. and Mrs. Hauer, and then got employment with the John Johnson family, where he worked for four years. In 1934, Carl remembers a severe hailstorm hitting the area, damaging all the crops one hundred per cent. The prospects had been good that year, but after the storm, all that was left was the odd thistle. Mr. Johnson owned three quarters of land in the Evarts district, and when they became available for rent, Carl's dream of farming on his own became a reality. Here he farmed for four years, and in 1940, he married Martha Holm of Eckville, and we lived on at that farm for another four years. There was a scarcity of money, and machinery in those days. The house was a granary remodelled for living quarters, which was added onto in 1941. Carl had bought a tractor in 1939, which made farming a lot easier, and quicker. We were able to clear, and break more land. The neighbours living close by were; Mr. and Mrs. Dave

McNeil, Mr. and Mrs. John Staniforth, Mr. Ed Medin, and Mr. John Watson.

Life became very enjoyable when a car was purchased. It was handy to get the groceries instead of walking to the store, and then carrying the groceries back in a sack. The entertainment in the summer was to go to the movies at Sylvan Lake, on Saturday night, and the occasional dance out in the country. There was curling in the winter, but mostly visiting was enjoyed. In the spring of 1941, there were many dust storms. Every day the dust sifted into the house on the window sills. It was almost impossible to do any field work through the day. In the late afternoon the winds subsided, and work could resume.

The most serious mishap that occurred while Carl was batching in the Evarts district, was the time his saddle horse became frisky, and Carl was bucked off, landing on the frozen ground, breaking his ankle. Carl hobbled to McNeils, and they took him to the Bentley Hospital. He spent some time recuperating with the McNeil and Johnson families.

In 1944, Carl bought a half section of land N.E. 3, and N.W. 2-38-2-W5, in the Centerville district. It had been homesteaded by H. Wilcox, but in later years was rented out to different people until it was sold to us. The following years we cleared, and broke more land for cultivation.

In 1951, **Carolyn**, a daughter, was born to grace our home. We lived on this farm for 29 years, and then we felt the need to retire, so we had an auction sale in 1973, and moved to 4229-53 Street, Red Deer, Alberta, where we are still living.

Carolyn married Jeffrey Bondy, and they have one son Julian Jeffrey. The Bondys at present are living in Calgary.

OSWALD MICHAEL FORHAN

O. M. Forhan and his brother, Harold came from Ontario. We are told by a very old historian that O. M. Forhan knew George Robinson in Montana, United States, before coming to Evarts and that explains why the Forhan destination was Evarts. Harold went into partnership with George Robinson for a short while before Mr. Robinson left Evarts. Following this, Harold



Anna Mae McGregor (Mrs. Forhan) age 20, (teacher, 1903).

had the business alone. Oswald Michael Forhan homesteaded on what was later Alex Duncan's farm.

Miss Anne M. McGregor was born in 1880, in New Glasgow, Picton County, Nova Scotia, coming west at age 21, in 1901, with another school teacher, Miss Ada Belle Brown. This must have been an exciting adventure for two young teachers. Miss McGregor taught her first school at Bennet, east of Olds. Following this, she taught for three years at Evarts school, also Melita school for one year. It is easy to assume it was while teaching at Evarts and surrounding area that Oswald and Anne became acquainted, as they were married on July 22, 1907, in Calgary.

I understand the Forhans at one time had a business at Innisfail. They later moved to the town of Eckville. There are two sons, **Norman** and **Tom**. Mrs. Forhan after a full and active life passed away January 19, 1964, in the Eckville Hospital, predeceased by her husband and so passed other pioneers into memories.

GERRY FORSELL AND FAMILY

Gerry and Beverly Forsell and family moved to the Evarts area March 7, 1976. They are renting the farm house on the Ed Liddel place, from Terry and Evie Hambly. They moved here from Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, where Gerry was in the Canadian Armed Forces.

Gerry was born in Eckville, Alberta in 1943. He lived on a farm north of Eckville for seventeen years. Several years after the death of his father, his family moved into Eckville where Gerry finished his education and in December 1961, he joined the forces and remained a member of the air element for fourteen years. He was stationed in France and it was here that he met and married Beverly, who was also in the Armed Forces, but in the water element. Beverly (nee Shearlaw), was born in Drumheller, Alberta in 1947 and in 1949, moved to Three Hills, Alberta, where she remained until her entry into the Armed Forces in 1965. She remained in the forces until August 1970. She met Gerry in 1966 and married him in France in 1967. They moved with the forces to Germany, where they resided for two years. On their return to Canada, in March of 1969, they were stationed at Cold Lake, Alberta, where in 1971, their daughter, **Rhonda Lee**, was born in the forces hospital. In 1975, they were transferred to Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, where they remained until Gerry purchased the trucking outfit he now runs and moved back to Alberta. Rhonda started grade one this year at the Benalto School.

RONALD FOULKES

Ronald was a bachelor. He was in partnership with Jack Killick and ran a store at Evarts for sometime. Jack then sold his share to Ronald, who carried on the business until selling out to Smith Brothers. He left Evarts and moved east of Red Deer.

FREDRICKSON

A Norwegian family by the name of Fredrickson, lived at Evarts for some time, working with Mr. J. W. Watkins. When Mr. Watkins moved to Salmon Arm, the Fredrickson family moved with them. The oldest boy was named **Julias**. Also an older girl **Gunda** is remembered. There were two younger children as well.

ROD GALBRAITH

The Galbraiths lived on S.W. 2-38-3-W5. They had two children who attended the Evarts school from 1925 to 1929. **Jas** and **Agnes** had to travel four and a half miles to school.

FRANK GALLANT FAMILY — section 6-38-2-5

The Gallant family moved to the Evarts district in the spring of 1961 from Garden Grove, California. Mr. Gallant's sister, Joy Archer, from Odessa, Texas, moved to the district at the same time, as a partner in the ranching business. They settled on what used to be known as the "Island Ranch" with their four children; **Lynn**, age twelve, **Marilyn**, age eight, **David**, age seven, and **Joni** age five. The children attended Benalto School, and Lynn, at the age of fourteen, moved back to California. Frank and Connie Gallant farmed the "Island Ranch" until November, 1968, then moved into the city of Red Deer. Later on June 14, 1973, David was killed in a motorcycle accident.

GORDON GIBSON FAMILY

Gordon Gibson taught at the Evarts School during the 1953-54 term. He, and his wife, Freda, and their two older children lived in the teacherage.

Gordon was born in Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, and received his early education in a rural school near Congress, Saskatchewan. Most of his high school subjects were taken through correspondence courses. He finished his grade twelve at Dickson while pastoring the New Raven Gospel Mission. He attended the University of Alberta in Edmonton. He taught at the Medicine Valley, and Wolfe schools before moving to Evarts. From Evarts he moved to Leslieville where he taught for twenty years. He is now retired and makes his home in Leslieville. He keeps busy substitute teaching, gardening, curling, and playing horseshoes.

Gordon's wife, Freda was the oldest daughter of Mrs. Keitha, and the late Fred Bott. She, and her seven brothers, and two sisters grew up on their family farm now owned by her brother Eddie Bott, and his wife Marie. The farm is two miles south of Withrow. She received her education at a little country school called Shady Lane. She, and Gordon were married in 1942.

Their oldest daughter, **Joy** is married to Allan Brososky. They live at Fort McMurray with their three children, Debbie, Howard, and Blain. Allan works for Great Canadian Oil Sands.

The Gibson's oldest son, **Danny** lives on a farm near Innisfail with his wife Judy, and their two daughters, Susan, and Jenny. Danny is country sales manager for the Ad-Viser Publications in Red Deer. Judy is the layout artist for the Innisfail Booster.

It was during their stay at Evarts that the Gibson's second daughter, **Maxine** was born. She was named after Mrs. Maxine Ostercamp who was also living at Evarts, and who was appreciated, because of her jolly disposition. **Maxine** is married to Paul Depner, and they live at Rocky Mountain House. They have a son, named Clay Paul. Maxine is working for the Department of Agriculture, as a secretary. Her husband, Paul is a gas plant operator.

After moving to Leslieville another daughter and son were born into the Gibson family. **Carol**, and **Dale** are

now teenagers. They are living at home with their parents, and are attending the David Thompson High School.

MISS ISABEL GILBERT (LECHELT)

Miss Gilbert taught the Evarts school class for four years, starting in 1936. Owing to the fact that the teacherage had burned in previous years, Miss Gilbert found lodging at the A. L. Stewart home in Evarts. She was the second teacher to enjoy the newly built school. Later married, Miss Gilbert is now Mrs. Isabel Lechelt, living in Red Deer.

THE GINGRAS FAMILY

Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Gingras came to the district in 1903, from Michigan, United States and homesteaded N.E. 4-38-3-W5 on July 3, 1905. They had two girls and a boy. **Annie** passed away in 1908. **Flora** married Bob McKay and lived in Calgary. **Roy** worked in lumber camps and saw mills and eventually studied for a steam engineer. He and his wife, Lillian had three girls and a boy and were living at Bellevue, Alberta, when last heard from.

Mr. Gingras worked at saw mills and hauled lumber. He had a cream route for many years. Mrs. Gingras was born at Harrison, Ontario, of Scottish and Irish descent, which she was always proud of. She passed away suddenly at her home west of Evarts in 1922. The Gingras home was kindly remembered as a stopping place in the early days by many a tired freighter and land seeker. No matter how crowded the house was, there was always a warm welcome.

Mr. Gingras sold the farm to the Soldier Settlement Board and moved to Sylvan Lake to an acreage on the east side. He is buried beside his wife and daughter, Annie in the Medicine Valley cemetery.

FRITZ GISELMAN FAMILY

Fritz was born December 11, 1860, in Bavaria, Germany. He came to America at 18 years of age. He could not speak English, but this did not discourage him. He managed to get to Liverpool, England and from there came by boat to New York. He went to Chicago where he learned the butcher trade at Swift and Company. After becoming a qualified meat cutter and sausage maker, he held the position of post butcher at Fort Buford, North Dakota.

It was here that Fritz met Elizabeth Gynther. She was born in Helsinki, Finland, only daughter of Swiss, Andrew Gynther and Finnish, Maria Kahara. She immigrated to America in July 1892.

When she met Fritz, she was cook for an army officer's family at Buford, North Dakota. They were married July 3, 1895, in Wilston, North Dakota. Following their marriage they farmed for a time near Minot, North Dakota. In around 1900, Fritz was inspired to pioneer in Canada, the new country. Fritz first chose land west of Ponoka along the Battle River, however, when he went to Red Deer to file on it, he met a man who had filed on a homestead about 30 miles west of Red Deer and had started a cabin on it, but had decided to go back to the States. So Fritz filed on it, after swimming the Medicine River on horseback to inspect it. He purchased three other quarters.

The buildings they first lived in were on the creek bank on S.E. 36-37-3-W5. Neighbors helped to build a bridge on the creek and this served as a crossing for traffic coming from south and west.

Fritz served as veterinarian for miles around, often travelling so far he had to stay overnight. He also gave the use of his land to the Happy Hill school when it was started in 1904. He was a member of the school board for several years.

Four oxen and a walking plough driven by William Stringer, broke the land for a building site. Some of the other land was broken by a steam tractor operated by Amos Smith. The lumber was brought down the Medicine River, from the Eckville area by Arni Bardal, when the Giselmans decided to build a new house in 1913-14. It was then hauled by wagon from the river about one mile east. The house was built by Fred Erickson, on the quarter south of the original building site and where the buildings are today. It burnt down March 17, 1917.

Ed and his Mother lived in a small house until 1938, when the present house was built. In the early days the Giselmans had a lot of cattle, they would run the open range.

Fritz Giselman was one of the first to get a car, about 1915, he purchased a Russell car and later a 490 Chevrolet.

Mr. and Mrs. Giselman had five children. **Louis** served overseas in the Armed Forces during the First World War. He died in November, 1940 at Fort Macleod, Alberta of meningitis and is buried at Sylvan Lake. **Joseph** married Annie Swartz of the New Hill district. She is now deceased but he is living in Portland, Oregon. They had three children. **Bertha**, became Mrs. Alex Smith, Corvallis, Oregon, they have a son and a daughter. **Laura** born at Evarts, Alberta resides at Sidney, British Columbia. Laura was married to Allan Barnes who passed away in 1966. **Edward** received his schooling at Happy Hill and farmed the family farm with his mother from 1918 on. In 1938, he was married to Verna Krogh at Stauffer.

In 1918, Fritz returned to the United States and ran a butcher shop in Albany, Oregon. He passed away in 1932, at the age of 72 and is buried in the Corvallis, Oregon, cemetery. Mrs. Giselman passed away June 5, 1939, at the age of 77 years and is buried in Sylvan Lake cemetery.

EDWARD GISELMAN

Edward (Eddie) was born on the home farm November 27, 1904 and spent his entire life on the same farm. At the age of 14 he was left with his mother to assume the responsibility of operating the farm which he did very successfully. He was an exceptionally good stockman having built up a large herd of Hereford cattle. Horses also were a special interest to him. All during his life he was very much a community minded man, serving in such capacities as: school board trustee, a director of the Happy Hill community centre, an elder when church services were held in Happy Hill school and a member of the council of Bethany Lutheran Church at Dickson. He was Stampede judge at Benalto for several years. Besides his official capacities he often contributed to the entertainment at social gatherings by his step dancing and

violin playing. In earlier years he won many "first prizes for roping at Benalto and surroundings stampedes".

In September 1938, he was married to Verna Krogh of Stauffer. They have four daughters; Mrs. Jim (**Carol**) Childers of Camarillo, California, Mrs. Ted (**Myrna**) Black of Happy Hill district, Mrs. Cai (**Jackie**) Jensen of Happy Hill district and Mrs. Lawrence (**Vivian**) Dufresne of Red Deer. There are seven grandchildren.

Eddie passed away suddenly at his home on May 11, 1970 of a heart attack. Verna is living in Red Deer and her daughter and son-in-law Jackie and Cai Jensen have taken over the family farm.

MRS. B. GOEDICKE — 1947-1949

I lived in the teacherage during the week, with two little daughters. During the first year, Beatrice Philips, baby-sat the three year old, and the five year old came into the classroom. Friday after school, we packed up our things, including the pressure cooker and the cutlery, to spend the week-end on the farm.

Teachers were very scarce. Mr. John Hillman, the school trustee, promised that the school children would help with my little ones, if I would teach at the school. The parents and children gave fantastic support. Discipline problems were non-existent.

Christmas concerts were community affairs. Money was raised by a box social and a raffle in November. The students were allowed to select their presents from the catalogue — seven dollars worth each. Days and days were spent practising for the big show in the hall. Everyone had many parts — even the boys learned dances, for example the Highland Fling, the Sailor's Hornpipe. "A rooster parade" was hilarious, "The Dummy" and "Rascal Pat", two good plays will bring back amusing memories. The concerts always included items befitting Christmas and the Christ Child.

A school picnic for everybody closed the year — it was real fun as the snaps show — wagon races for the boys and dress-ups for the men. There was lots of food topped with a generous supply of ice-cream.

School was closed for three days during threshing time while the teacher went back to the farm to cook. The time was made up at Easter — the parents saw to it that all the children were present.

The people in Evarts are special from my point of view. Everyone seemed to appreciate having a teacher. It was a time when parents felt sure of themselves. These children seemed happy in their homes; they knew someone was in earnest about their upbringing. It was as simple as that.

FRANCIS EDWARD GOOD

Francis Edward Good was born in Sackville, New Brunswick. He came first to Nanaimo, British Columbia and later to Innisfail, Alberta with his parents, George Edward and Grace Good, in about 1894. One of his sons, Ed Good, apprenticed to a blacksmith in Red Deer and then in 1905-1906, started a business of his own in the town of Evarts. On May 20, 1908, he married Martha (Pattie) Wild at Leslieville.

Pattie Wild was born in Bingley, Yorkshire, England, coming to the eastern States, and shortly after the turn of the century, in 1905, to what was later named the Bingley

area. She left here to go to Evarts to become the bride of Ed Good.

Ed and Pattie's first son, **George** was born in Evarts in 1909, but died as a small child of infantile paralysis. A second boy, **Walter Ogden** Good was born in Evarts, October 21, 1910. I might mention the fact, that Ed drove the first car that went from Evarts to Rocky Mountain House. Mr. Kirby and Mr. Driscoll hired a Red Deer mechanic and a car to drive them west. They stopped on their way at Evarts and asked Ed to go along, which he did. Of course, they got stuck several times. They spent the night with a hermit who had put a light in his window, to guide them, for he said he knew they were coming. In about 1910, the railroads were building west, and since they were by-passing Evarts, it was decided that Lochearne (later Rocky Mountain House), would be a better place to reside. So it was in about 1910 or 1911, that Pattie and Ed, with their little boy, Walter, moved from Evarts, to what is now known as Old Town and later to the new townsite of Rocky. The Goods had a blacksmith and welding shop there, along with a garage. Another sad event happened to the Goods in the death of Ed in 1918, from the "flu". The family had now grown, as there were two other sons, **Francis Edward**, born February 2, 1912, and **Harld Robert**, born May 19, 1914, also a daughter, **Kathleen**, born May 20, 1916. Both Francis Edward and Harold Robert lost their lives in 1944, August 26, when they were both flying officers in the R.C.A.F. The Good family remained in Rocky until 1949, having the telephone office there from 1920, when this service first reached the town.

Kathleen married Bill Muir, has two sons, George who lives on Vancouver Island and Bruce, in Calgary. They have one daughter, Lois Bennet, Wetaskiwin. Walter Ogden, married Myrtle Teske of Rocky Mountain House. His sons Edward and Harold are now operating Central Alberta Florists in Red Deer, which Walter founded. A daughter Eleanor is married to Dr. Watonakunakorn, and lives in Ohio, United States.

GEORGE GORUK — written by Mrs. Katherine Goruk

George was born at Bellis, Alberta, son of William and Jennie Goruk. As a young man George helped on the



Mr. and Mrs. George Goruk and grandchildren.

family farm and for the winter months he went hard-rock mining in British Columbia.

In 1948 George and Katherine Shupenia were married in the Bellis Church and settled down to farming in the Edwand, Alberta district.

I (Katherine) was born in Spedden, Alberta, daughter of Humphry and May Shupenia. I grew up in Wandering River and Edwand districts and helped on my parents' farm till I got married.

George and I moved to Edmonton, Alberta, where George worked in the oil industry and I stayed home with our three sons. Nine years later we moved to the city of Red Deer, where George founded his own company "Target Well Servicing Limited."

In 1972, we decided to diversify our activities and purchased half a section of land from Alex and Marian Meston, N.½ 20-37-2-W. 5. We sold Target Well Servicing, and George stayed on with the firm as vice-president.

George and I raised three boys; **Dennis**, our oldest is married to Anna Fleming of Red Deer, and they have two daughters. Dennis is working in Calgary as production manager for Turbo Resources. **Darrell**, our second son is married to Heather Denton, of Red Deer, and they have a daughter. Darrell works for Parkland Truck Service in Red Deer, and also farms with us. **Bernie**, is married to Carole Carless from Red Deer and he is in his last year of Petroleum Engineering at the University of Alberta.

JAMES GOWANS FAMILY

The James Gowans family left their homeland, Lanarkshire, Scotland and arrived at their farm N.E. 36-37-3-W. 5, in the Evarts district in 1926. There were ten children in the family.

They were met at Benalto by Jim Stewart of Evarts and brought to their farm. Mrs. Gowans was used to cooking over an open fireplace, so a neighbor, Mrs. Jim Leithhead, showed her how to operate the stove and bake bread. One article that was brought from Scotland was a hand cranked gramophone, neighbors would come over to listen to their Scotch records on it. To get the settlers started the Soldier Settlement Board supervisor would buy on behalf of the settlers, used machinery and livestock, anywhere within a radius of 40 miles. From there farmers had to pick it up with team and wagon.

The family members are; **Flora**, (Mrs. Alex William) in Guelph, Ontario; **Nellie** (Mrs. George Duncan) at Eckville, with her family of eight children. **Agnes**, (Mrs. Lawson Haynes) in Calgary. **Betty** (Mrs. Cory Rosvear), in Montreal with her three children. **Jenny**, died in 1972, **Mary** (Mrs. R. Desrosiers) of Glaslyn, Saskatchewan, has six children; **John** married and has three children. His wife died in 1972 and John resides in Edmonton. **Jim**, married, has two children and lives near Hespero; **Robert**, married Phyllis Hanna and has seven children, lives on the home farm at Evarts. **William**, at 19 years of age was killed in action over Calais, France, in 1944 and is buried in England. Jenny, Mary, John, Jim and William all served in Armed Forces during World War Two. Agnes and Betty were engaged in aeroplane factory work during the war.

An excerpt of the Gowans family, from The Rare Book department in Edmonton states: "What a wonder-

ful record of patriotism for one family, seven out of ten children in essential war work. The whole community must be following their movements with keen interest, hoping they return in perfect health and vigour, their lives enriched by many friendships, by memories of strange places and by thrilling experiences". This was written by Russel Stauffer, Grade eight, in a book of history compiled by students of the Evarts school, 1942-43.

Mr. and Mrs. Gowans, moved to Eckville and lived there for a number of years.

Mr. Gowans passed away in 1958.

Mrs. Gowans, remained in Eckville, until she was admitted to the hospital there and in 1974, was transferred to Westpark Nursing Home. She was 92 years old in 1976, has 29 grandchildren, several great-grandchildren and a great-great-grandson and granddaughter.

ROBERT GOWANS FAMILY

Robert (Robbie) was born in Scotland, he came to Evarts, with his folks, Mr. and Mrs. James Gowans and the rest of the family. They came by boat to eastern Canada and then by train to Benalto in 1926. Robert attended school at Evarts. On his way home from school he would sometimes catch a ride with men who were on their way home from Benalto, after hauling grain there. Many times there would be at least twenty wagons with the men visiting in the front wagon and other teams following behind. Some of these men would have come from the Craig and Happy Hill districts.

Robert took over the farm N.E. 36-37-3-W. 5, from his folks when they retired to Eckville.

Robert married Phyllis Hanna, a neighbour girl, who came with her folks, Walter and Amelia Hanna from Scotsguard, Saskatchewan, in 1934 to the Evarts district. Phyllis was born in Saskatchewan, and attended school at North Instow, Saskatchewan, Evarts, New Centerville and Dickson.



Robbie Gowans family and Granny — back row — Brian, Bill, Ann, Jim, Coleen, Gordon, Bonnie. Front row — Alice, Phyllis, Robbie and Granny.

They have seven children: **Bonnie**, received her Bachelor of Science degree with Honours in Bio-Chemistry. She works in the McEachern Cancer research laboratory in Edmonton. **Bill** is an electrician, he is married to Carol Watson, formerly of British Columbia. She is Mrs. Bud Hanna's niece. Bill and Carol live in Sylvan Lake, Alberta. **Brian**, helps on the home farm, as well as working at Jerry Hanna's at Blue River, British Columbia. **Ann**, is married to Jim Szpajcher. They live in Sherwood Park. Ann works at the Credit Union and Jim works on oil rigs. **Coleen**, is working at the Royal Bank in Red Deer. **Gordon**, is taking a welding course in Red Deer. **Alice**, is at home, going to Spruce View School.

Lightning struck some hay stacks, at Robert Gowans in 1976. He lost approximately 60 Heston stacks.

ALEXANDER GRANT

Mr. and Mrs. Alex (Sandy) Grant and their son Alex and daughter Betty came from Dunferline, Scotland in 1930 to Canada and on to the John Watson farm at Evarts, where Mr. Grant was employed for a number of years. Alex and Betty attended the Evarts school.

After some moves through the years, Mr. and Mrs. Grant are now residing in the Twilight Lodge in Red Deer. **Betty**, married Art Johansson and lives at Bentley. They have two sons, Grant lives in Montreal and is a draftsman in an aeroplane company. Gordon is in Calgary, where he works for a gas company. **Alec**, joined the Royal Canadian Air Force in 1938 and was in the services until 1945. He married Norma Nielsen, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Andrew H. Nielsen of the Happy Hill district. They have two sons, Kim and Kent. Alex and Norma operated the Nielsen farm for several years and then Alex re-enlisted in the Air Force in 1955 and was a radar control operator, until his retirement in 1973. During this period they were stationed in France as well as various places throughout Canada. Presently Alec is Air Traffic Controller at the International Air Port at Edmonton.

Kim is an officer in the Armed Forces and is an electrical engineer. He graduated from the Royal Road Military College in Victoria. He furthered his training in Kingston, Ontario. He has just recently returned from Cyprus and is stationed in Calgary, awaiting another assignment.

Kent is taking his final year of Education at the University of Edmonton.

Alec and Norma are residing in Edmonton.

MAX HALL — written by Mrs. Murrle Steele

The Max Hall family, while not one of the earlier settlers of the district, lived in the area for some years.

Having moved to Eckville, from the dried out area of Loverna, Saskatchewan in 1931, they moved to Evarts in 1933, living in the Larratt house. Located across the road from Lloyd McNeil's farm home, N.W. 12-38-3-W. 5. Later in 1935, they moved to what was known as the Ken Jackson farm presently the residence of Clyde Stauffer, S.E. 12-38-3-W. 5. They lived there until Mr. Hall passed away September 21, 1945.

Following Mr. Hall's passing, Mrs. Hall lived with her eldest daughter, Madelaine and son-in-law, Murrle Steele, at Benalto, for a couple of years. Mrs. Hall then returned to Evarts, to the John Watson home where she was employed until May, 1970. She then lived with Mrs.



Madelaine, Max, Maxine, Mrs. Hall and Thelma.

M. Steele, who had since moved to Edmonton. Following this she then resided at Westpark Nursing Home, Red Deer, until her passing on June 6, 1974.

During their years at Evarts, they enjoyed taking part in community affairs. Mr. Hall being caretaker of the curling rink at Evarts, for some years. Mrs. Hall was a member of the Evarts Community Club from its beginning. She was a regular entrant at the Benalto Fair and won many baking prizes. On her 70th birthday, she took three prizes in pies as well as raisin tarts for which she was noted.

A friend of Mothers recalls an unusual incident, Mother attended church at Evarts, this one Sunday a little boy was having some difficulties being quiet, so she felt in her pocket and found some peppermint candies and gave him one. He was delighted until he put it in his mouth and what a face he made, the peppermint turned out to be a moth ball. Mother's coat had just been taken out of summer storage and the moth balls hadn't been removed. Mother felt so bad and often recalled the day in her memories.

There are three daughters; **Madelaine**, (Mrs. M. Steele) Edmonton, has three sons. **Thelma**, (Mrs. E. Barlund) Eckville, has four sons and a daughter. Thelma was employed at the old Eckville hospital from 1941-1944. She also worked for the Andy Stewarts, in their store and home. Thelma recalls during this time at Evarts, the steel bridge crossing the Medicine River was being built (around 1936). There was a bridge gang camped nearby, Gordon Stewart was at home at the time and it seemed they were always up to some mischief. One particular time, they took some apple cider (that Gordon's father had in his store) and mixed yeast, raisins and what have you, with it. They put it back into the bottles and sat them on a shelf in the back of the store. Days past and then came the day "the corks started popping off these bottles," Thelma recalls so vividly, Mr. Stewart wondering what on earth was happening? Needless to say it was the talk of the store for days. **Maxine**, (Mrs. A. McFadden) Prince Rupert, British Columbia, has two children. Maxine started and attended public school at Evarts.

The Halls were a part of the Evarts community from 1932-1970 and the family are proud to be included in the recording of the history of Evarts.

HALLINGSTEAD-OWEN HISTORIES

My name is Mabel Owen, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Martin Loken, early pioneers of the Evarts district. I was one of the first children to be born in this area. I lived on a farm east of Evarts almost continuously until moving to Red Deer in 1957. The location of the farm and all the



Knut Hallingstead, 1917.



Mabel and Bill Owen.

facts about the early days are included in what we have written about the Loken family. I attended school at Evarts and my teachers were Mr. Branscombe, Mr. Ludwig, Mr. Glebe, Miss Maxted (Mrs. Scott Hastie), Mr. Boucher and Miss Kennings. Sometimes the school consisted of about six pupils. I still hear from one school pal, Marian Hussey. She is now Mrs. Martin, a widow in Illinois, United States. I remember walking the two and a half miles to school one fine crisp morning. When I got to the store the thermometer there read sixty degrees below fahrenheit. I remember one winter after that, the snow came to stay on October 10th. There was no break up that year until May. The feed situation became grim and several head of livestock perished in the district. Another year, my father drove from the farm to Red Deer with team and sleigh on the fifteenth of June. In 1922, I married Knut Hallingstead. He had come from Norway at the age of twenty-one. After spending some time in the United States, he moved to Alberta. Later he went back to the States, where he served in the United States Army until the end of World War I, when he returned to Alberta. In 1934, he passed away, leaving me with three daughters. Their names are as follows: Mrs. William Pickering (**Louise**), Sylvan Lake, Mrs. Harry Larsen (**Edna**), Bentley and Mrs. Garnet Fairgray (**Alice**), of Powell River, British Columbia. I would like to mention here, that Louise was named after a very good friend of mine, Louise Jarvis, who lived in the Happy Hill district at that time. After my husband's death, the girls and I stayed on the farm. This was the Loken place which I rented from my father. It later came to me through the estate.

In 1941, I married William Henry Owen of Dovercourt, he having three children; **Vic**, **Joan** and an older married daughter, **May**. A son **Philip** blessed our marriage, now living in Red Deer. Bill passed away in 1961.

Note: Mrs. Owen worked at The Alberta School Hospital, Red Deer, until she succumbed to arthritis, passing away March 9, 1972.

VERNON W. HANNA

Vernon W. Hanna, known as **Buster**, came to the Evarts area in 1940, living in various parts of the district. Buster made his livelihood by raising pigs and drilling wells. He finally bought an acreage on No. 11 Highway, now owned by Ralph Dowler. At the time of his passing, in October, 1955, he was employed by Calgary Power, digging power poles.

WALTER HANNA SR. AND FAMILY — Written by the late Mrs. Hanna Sr.

Walter and I, with daughters **Audrey** and **Phyllis**, and sons **Thomas (Bud)** and **Walter G.** came from Saskatchewan to Evarts in 1934. Before coming to Saskatchewan, Walter lived in North Dakota, United States of America. Walter's brother had come to Saskatchewan earlier and had returned to Dakota and was freighting, when Walter decided to hitch a ride on the freight train and go too.

I, **Amelia Golem**, came from Ontario to Saskatchewan, to join my brothers. Walter and I were married in 1918, and worked on a dairy farm near Dollard. That fall we moved to our own land at Instow,

Saskatchewan, and later spent two years at Scotsguard, where we farmed until we starved out. We had a chance to come to Evarts to look at some land the Great West Company owned. We bought a half section and moved on in the late part of 1934. We had no crops to speak of until 1935. It was cold and snowing. The crops in Evarts had hailed out and were still covered on the north side of the stooks with snow. It had frozen in the early fall. After living on relief for three years in Saskatchewan, it looked like we were headed for the same in Alberta.

We moved in by freight train. **Scotty Rodgers** and **Bud** looked after the cattle, horses and machinery on the train. Our freight came to Benalto station, where we had to leave it until locating a Great West man. He was to evict the people who were still living on the farm. It was the first of November, and we could not compel them to move. When **Harry Bennett**, from near Benalto, heard of our predicament, he offered us his buildings and pasture. The weather turned warm and was very nice until Christmas. We went to the Evarts Christmas concert in the old school house.

After finally moving to our new home, S.W. 32-37-2-5, we lined the house, as some previous renters had torn the boards off the walls and some of the floor boards and doors, to use for fire wood. Our men pulled the boards off the ceiling in the front room as well. There was from four to six inches of corruption on each board, when down it came. I can see it yet. This house was part log and part frame. The men worked till three A.M., then wanted coffee. I was so disgusted, I wouldn't get it for them, which I still regret. We had to build stairs too. Maybe if we had left them as they were, I would not have fallen down them, which I afterwards did. The cellar was only a hole, so we had to dig it out. One man dug a pail full of dirt, straw, rags and what have you, handed it to a man who took it out and threw it out the kitchen window. We were thankful for the nice weather that time. When they came to the bottom of what had been a cellar, it had round poles for a floor, and also for the walls. There was a well in the corner too, which had straw in it. We would not have been surprised if we'd found a dead man in it. We got it in decent shape and shelves put up for what fruit and pickles we brought with us from Saskatchewan. Oh yes, the renters who ruined the place had kept calves



Audrey, Amelia, Bud, Walter Jr., Walter Sr., Phyllis Hanna, 1941.



Mr. and Mrs. Walter Hanna Sr.

down there so they wouldn't freeze, and of course it wasn't so far to go to feed them either. The neighbors told us that the children had pots and such for curling rocks and would curl on the kitchen floor. They had ashes instead of ice to slide the rocks through.

In 1937, Dave Braton, Grant Cameron, and Walter went custom threshing, and Walter also did a lot of custom land breaking. He used to buy a lot of cattle and pigs. We had the buttermilk contract from Sylvan Lake Creamery to help feed the pigs.

Audrey, married Kari Olsen of Markerville, Alberta, and lived in that area, they have a family of nine.

Thomas (Bud), married Geneve Watson of Langley, British Columbia. They have three children.

Walter G. married Eileen Fifield of Dickson, Alberta, and they have two daughters.

Phyllis, married Robert (Robbie) Gowans of Evarts, Alberta, and they have seven children.

We lived in Evarts, until the end of 1955, when our son Walter G. got married, and took over, and we bought a lot with a small house in Sylvan Lake. We later moved a larger house to the lot, which we bought from Walter Maxon. This house we live in.

Note — Mrs. Hanna, born June 22, 1893, died April 25, 1974.

THOMAS (BUD) HANNA — written by Geneve Hanna

Thomas (Bud) Hanna came from Scotsguard, Saskatchewan, in 1934 by freight train, accompanied by Scotty Rodgers. They were looking after Hanna's livestock on their move to Benalto. Bud helped on the farm at Evarts until he joined the Royal Canadian Armed Forces in 1941-45. He spent some time overseas. While in the Air Force, he met me, his future wife, Geneve Watson.

I was in the Royal Canadian Air Force Woman's Division from 1941-45. I was from Langley, British Columbia, a daughter of Frank and Mabel Watson, formerly of Westward Ho, Alberta.



Jerry, Geneve, Tom, Nancy, Bud Hanna, 1968.

After we were married we settled on the Henry Brown farm N. 1/2 20-37-2-W. 5, which we purchased through the Veterans Lands Act. While we lived in the area we attended dances, card parties and ball games.

Some of our neighbours were Bjorn Thorlakson, Helmut Lemke, Ray Smith, Doug Ball, Tom Munro and Bill Rutschke.

We were often snow bound in the winter.

We had three children; Tom, Jerry and Nancy, born at Eckville, Alberta. Our children attended school at New Centerville, Benalto, Sylvan Lake and later in British Columbia. When one of our children was born, Bud rode horseback to the railroad trestle at Eckville and walked up to the hospital to visit me and our new baby, as the Medicine River was in full flood and most bridges were impossible.

We built the present house starting in 1949 from timber logged from the property. Joe Castle from Shaunavon, Saskatchewan, helped Bud build our house and worked for us for many years. Then he went back to Saskatchewan after we sold our farm, as his wife lived there. Later he came to Blue River, where he suddenly passed away while visiting us.

In 1960, we left and bought a place on Lake Eleanor, at Blue River, British Columbia, where we decided to build a motel called "So Help Me", it's Hanna's Esso Service and Motel. Later we bought a house at Kelowna, British Columbia, where we hope to retire, when we sell our motel.

Thomas (Tom) is married to Gail Lewis of Clearwater, British Columbia. They operate a hardware and laundromat in Blue River, British Columbia. They have two children Todd and Darleen.

Jerry is married to Victoria Olson of Valemount, British Columbia. He has a business of cement, gravel and backhoe work. They have three children, Dianna, Penny and David.

Our daughter **Nancy** is at Whitehorse, Yukon, employed by an ambulance service.

WALTER G. HANNA — written by Eileen Hanna

Walter G. Hanna was born in southern Saskatchewan, to Walter and Amelia Hanna. He came to the Evarts area in 1934 as a small child with his folks and the rest of the family to S.W. 32-37-2-W. 5, they also



Walter, Eileen, Debra, Leora Hanna.

farmed N.E. 32-37-2-W. 5. Later they bought S.E. 32-37-2-W. 5 and the Duncan quarter S.E. 2-38-3-W. 5. They moved into a house where the south part was log and it was on their land, and the north part was frame, and it was built on the neighbour's land. So they slept at home, and ate at the neighbours. This house was built on the fence line, we don't know if they knew this, when they built it or not. There was a story that two homesteaders homesteaded two quarters from the same house, whether this is true or not we don't know. We were told this house was built around 1889.

Walter G. attended school at Evarts, his teachers were: Miss Gilbert, Mrs. Nielson and Leonard Willing. He also went to New Centerville and later to the high school at Red Deer, where he stayed at the dormitory. When he finished school, he decided he wanted to farm, so he farmed with his father.

In 1954, his brother Bud needed someone to help with the children while his wife, Geneve was in the hospital. Eileen Fifield came to help. Her parents were William (Bill) and Elise Fifield. Geneve and Bill were first cousins.

Then in 1955 Walter G. and Eileen Fifield of Dickson, and formerly of Rich Hill and Pine View area, were married. Eileen, was born at her mom's folk's farm (Mr. and Mrs. August Christensen) east of Olds.

Later Walter's folks moved to Sylvan Lake, leaving Walter G. to do the farming.

In the years to follow we had two daughters **Debra** and **Leora**. They attended school at Benalto and Sylvan Lake. Debra also attended the Red Deer College. Both Debra and Leora have been members of the 4-H sewing and 4-H beef clubs. They also took several years of piano lessons. Debra is presently working at a computer service in Red Deer. Leora is taking grade twelve at Sylvan Lake.

RALPH HAMBLY

As a young boy, Ralph moved with his family from Pasa Robles, California, to the Ponoka district and was

raised in that area. On February 18, 1920, he married Gertrude Harris from Ponoka where they farmed. Their two oldest children Reginald and Terrance were born there.

From the time he was 15 years old he was an ardent baseball catcher. He played with Ponoka until moving to Benalto, where he played until the mid-fifties.

At Chigwell in 1930, he became elevator agent for the Alberta Wheat Pool, moving to Benalto in 1931, where he operated the elevator there for 26 years until 1947, when the family moved to the farm. He has a life-time membership with the Benalto Agricultural Society, and the Benalto Curling Club.

Ralph bought the George McMillan farm in 1945 S.W. 17-38-2-W. 5. He farmed the section with his second son Terry until his retirement a few years ago.

Gertrude Hamblly, wife and mother, played a very important part in all our lives. She was the steadying force that we needed. She was an avid curler for a number of years until she suffered with knee trouble. Even after her curling years were finished you could always find her in the front row cheering her family on. As a young woman she was a competent horsewoman, and spent many hours riding and even racing. She died of cancer on December 6, 1970, at 70 years of age.

After Ralph bought the farm, he hired Mr. and Mrs. Murrel Steele, who worked there for a couple of years. Murrel cut logs and a steady black team skidded them out to the sawmill site. A sawmill belonging to W. J. Hansen and John Koski came and sawed the logs from which the present home place was built. Hansen, Koski, Elmer Opp and ourselves made up the crew.

George McMillan lived with us until his death. Every fall he would contribute his time and do as much stooking as he could. He also spent many hours helping around the elevator, before the Hamblly's moved to the farm.

In earlier years when veterinarians were not plentiful, it was a common practice for farmers to call on Ralph to treat their sick animals and usually they recovered. Milk fever seemed to be his specialty.

As youngsters, the Hamblly farm had many animals. One was angora rabbits. We kids had to clip their fur and more than once the poor little creatures got nicked. Goats, sheep, canaries, chickens and horses were only some. Looking back it was a great experience and a way of learning about nature and what it has to offer. 4-H clubs were another part of our lives. Terry and Pat (Patsy to many), used to do the crop cutting. Pat sat on the gas-tank of the steel-wheeled tractor, and tripped the bundles, while Terry did the driving. On the lighter side, more than once, she remembers taking the tractor and leaving Terry to walk home, after a family spat.

To control coyotes, coyote hunts were a main attraction in the early forties. Often on a Sunday, a group of people would start from a large circle covering a few sections of land. Everyone walked toward a planned spot, and as many as ten coyotes might appear in the small circle at the end of the hunt.

Also around that time, beavers were damming the river and causing the roads to be flooded, so the country wanted them deleted. Ralph and the late William Austin of Benalto trapped many at that time.

A fortunate turn of events was when Ralph bought the land including oil-rights. Eventually an oil and gas



Curling 4-some, Ralph, Reg, Terry, Laverne Hamblly, 1953.



Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Hamblly, Pat, Terry, Laverne and Reg.

well was drilled. After a five-year trial with an oil company, the returns proved very valuable.

Fond memories are recaptured as we look back over the years the Hambllys curled. Father Ralph, and his three sons; Reg, Terry and Lavern, used to take in many bonspiels. Many will recall the times when "Dad" would call "Sweep" and how the boys worked. Their competing has produced lasting friends and many prizes that filled their homes.

Reg, the oldest son, was born in the Ponoka district, starting his schooling at Melita (located on No. 11 highway north of Benalto), then Benalto, Red Deer and attended the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology. He spent five years in the Air Force stationed in Ontario. He obtained his pilots' license when he got out of the Air Force. Reg married Jean Lindsay of Sylvan Lake. They raised mink near Benalto until moving to Aldergrove, British Columbia in 1966 where he continues to raise mink. Jim, their oldest son and his wife Allison have one daughter and live at Abbotsford. He is employed with the British Columbia Telephones. Howard, their second son is a mechanic in British Columbia. Reg and Jean have two younger sons Michael and Robbie who are still attending school and living at home. Both boys are capable baseball players.

Terry lives on the home place and continues farming. He is under separate history.

Patricia was born in Red Deer and raised in Benalto. She married Jack Knowles of the Byemore district. They lived in Calgary for two years, Estevan, Saskatchewan one year, and Regina, Saskatchewan ten years. Jack was employed with Gulf Oil. They moved back to the Evarts district in 1967. They now live one-quarter of a mile north of Benalto and have purchased the General Store in Benalto. Dean their oldest son is working and living away from home, but plans to continue his education. Brad is in grade 11 at Sylvan Lake school, busy with 4-H and remote control airplanes. Shannon is in grade three at Benalto school and showing lots of interest in horses.

Lavern, the youngest son was born in Red Deer. He took his schooling in Benalto and Red Deer and finished up by taking his veterinarian degree in Guelph, Ontario. He married Peggy Lewey from Pasa Robles, California. As coincidence would have it, it was only over the hill from where Ralph was born. They live at Whitehouse Station, New Jersey. Lavern is working in animal research for Pitman-Moore, he also handles the Canadian office from there. They have three boys; Brian - five years old, Jay - two years old and baby Mark.

TERRANCE HAMBLY

Terry married Evelyn Mattson of the Kuusamo district in 1952, and reside on N.W. 17-38-2-W5.

They have four children; Richard (Rick) now married to Julie Jarvis, and living on the S.E. ¼ of Section 17, purchased from his grandfather, Ralph Hamblly. **Douglas**, working out and also helping at home whenever possible, but eventually plans to farm. **Gail** and **Shauna**, both at home and attending Sylvan Lake School.

The family have been actively involved with 4-H. All the children belonging to the Medicine Valley Beef club, the girls, in the Evarts Clothing club, and the Happy Hill Horse club. They also enjoy showing their horses at various local fairs.

Terry and Evie have both served as directors for the Benalto Agricultural Society.

Curling has always been a part of the family life. In 1966, Terry was on the rink that represented Alberta in the Massey-Ferguson Curl-O-Rama in Toronto, Ontario. This was a once in a lifetime experience.

Under the name of Glenarden Stock Farms, Terry and, his father have farmed in partnership. They purchased in 1968, the former Ed Liddell quarter, N.W.



Evie, Terry, Rick, Doug, Shauna and Gail Hambly.

9-38-2-W5, also the former Elmer Sjare's quarter S.W. 16-38-2-W5, from Hans Wengberg.

They have over the years built up a herd of purebred Angus cattle, and have taken part in many shows and sales.

RICHARD AND JULIA HAMBLY

Rick Hambly, son of Terry and Evie Hambly and Julie Jarvis, daughter of Ralph and Ernie Jarvis of the Happy Hill district were married August 10, 1974.

Our first year was spent on the Ed Liddell farm, N.W. 9-38-2-W5 which was owned by Rick's family. In the summer of 1975 we moved on to the S.E. 17-38-2-W5 which we had previously purchased from Rick's grandfather, Ralph Hambly. Life on our new farm that summer was hectic as we had to construct a barn to house 90 mares for the winter. Rick and I made a living working with horses from October till April. Actually, we are involved in P.M.U. which is simply a term used for the business of collecting "Pregnant Mares Urine" used for the manufacture of estrogen based products, namely drugs. We call our home "The Blue Ridge Ranch".

SCOTT HASTIE — by Peter Hastie

My father, Scott Hastie, along with his brother-in-law, Mr. Jack Simpson, operated a general store and post office at Evarts about 1912. My mother came from England in 1913, attended Normal School in Calgary, and then taught Evarts, and later Diamond Valley schools. Her maiden name was Dorothy Maxted. It is my understanding that Evarts was quite a thriving community then. I believe that there were two stores, a blacksmith shop, a stopping house, and quite a lively saloon. Many of the freighters hauling freight to Rocky Mountain House, stopped over in Evarts. The contractors building the Alberta Central Railway, drew their supplies from Evarts. I can remember my father saying most of his supplies came from Calgary by train to Red Deer and then freighted to Evarts, first by oxen and later horses, stopping over night at Burnt Lake.

The following is from my aunt's letter: "Your parents were married in 1914. I don't remember the date. They did not let us know until after the event, at which my dad was quite upset. They rode horseback to Red Deer and took the train to Edmonton to be married, as your



Mr. and Mrs. Scott Hastie and Peter.

mother wanted to continue teaching and married teachers were not employed. They kept their marriage quiet until your dad was seen climbing in Dorothy's window upstairs at the place she boarded. After that they decided to go to the farm west of Evarts. Dorothy came to Brooks for a visit, and wanted me to return with her, which I did. We passed through Calgary on the day the First World War was declared, on August 4, 1914. Your father met us in Red Deer. He had a team, with a wagon load of furniture, on top of which I had the privilege of riding all the way to Evarts. You were in the early stages at this time, so I did the housekeeping while your mother daily rode her pony to a nearby school. Your dad made hay and hunted. We practically lived on prairie chicken and pheasants and the odd rabbit."

I attended school at Diamond Valley and now reside in Red Deer.

RICH HEATON

Rich and Sherie Heaton came to our district from Quesnel, British Columbia in June, 1974, to reside on N.W. 12-38-3-W5. Rich worked for different farmers in the area, he also had a small herd of purebred cows. They were active in community activities and Sherie was a member of the 4-H Beef Club. They moved to the Lacombe area in December, 1976. They have a daughter, **Lisa** born January 1, 1977.

THE HEBRIDEANS — by M. P. MacLean

My first recollection of hearing anything about Canada was in the early winter of 1921, when I went to a meeting with my father showing pictures glorifying Canada, put on by the Canadian Pacific Railroad. They were trying to get immigrants to go to Canada, where they would get their own farms from the Soldier Settlement Board and reduced fares on the boat and train from the Canadian Pacific Railroad.

The pictures of Canada were very impressive. They showed people picking apples off the trees, and children skating, skiing, picking apples and grapes and eating them, which impressed me very much and apparently my father also, as he did not go back to sea for the rest of the winter, but prepared to leave for Canada.

In March of 1922, about thirty men, over half of them with families, left the Island of Barra. Barra is the

farthest west Island of the outer Hebrides and is fourteen miles around, with about twelve hundred people at that time. It is about eighty miles northwest of the Scottish mainland.

We stopped for a few days in Glasgow where we were joined by a number of other settlers from the other Islands of the outer Hebrides.

We sailed from Glasgow on the last day of March on the H.M.S. Metagama and after a very rough crossing landed in Quebec, April fourteenth, instead of Montreal, as the ice was not yet out of the St. Lawrence River.

We took the train from Quebec City and the idea was, that families would drop off throughout southern Ontario and spend a year learning to farm before proceeding west to get their own farms, as these men were all seafaring men and had never even touched a horse before, let alone put a bridle on one. Some dropped off at Dalhousie, Toronto, Chatham and Windsor. Our family was dropped off at Chatham, Ontario where my father got a job on a mixed farm.

The following spring, in April, we again boarded the train for Red Deer, Alberta where ever that place may be, as we could not find out from anyone in Ontario but they all knew that it was in Indian country and there were no road maps at that time. We were joined in Toronto by two families and two bachelors. The rest of the settlers decided they had come far enough and stayed where they were.

Before I go any further, I must tell you how little was known about Red Deer at that time by the people of Ontario. The last week before we left there were people in our house every night begging my father not to leave on account of the Indians. They told us so many stories and begged him for the sake of his family not to go, but Dad was determined to get his own farm. Finally, the night before we left, the storekeeper in Chatham brought Dad his own shotgun and shells to protect us from the Indians. Also, they talked him into shipping our own stove, which cost him \$64.00 to ship, as they knew that he could not get one where he was going. Dad was always mad about that when he found out that he could buy the same stove in Red Deer for \$22.00.

When we got to Red Deer we looked for the Indians, but did not see any, but were loaded into cars and driven four miles west to the Indian school where we were put in separate homes. We were to get the buildings ready for about two hundred families that were to arrive in May, all from the outer Hebrides. The first five that came to Red Deer were all from the Island of Barra and were joined a short time later by the family of Alex McNeil. Those same six were the ones that settled the Evarts district.

The Indian School at that time was quite an impressive sight. There were two large brick buildings, three stories high, kitchen facilities to handle at least five hundred people and dormitories to handle the same, seven separate family homes, barns, corrals, etc.

After the new immigrants arrived, each man was driven around to pick out farms that they liked. Some settled around Vermilion, Westlock, Camrose, Condor and many parts of Alberta. As these settlers had no farming experience, they used to line up at the barns and someone there would demonstrate how to bridle a horse, harness him and hook him up to a wagon. They would



Neil McLean family, 1925.

drive him around and also learn how to hook up a team and four horses.

A lot of other settlers arrived later, but I am not going to dwell on them as this history is only on the ones that came to Evarts.

MacLEAN: Early in July of 1923, we moved to Evarts and settled on the NE 4-38-3-W5, known then as the Gingras farm and it had twenty acres under cultivation. It is now owned by Murray Craig. There were five boys and three girls in our family and all went to the Diamond Valley School. **Kay** (Mrs. McNab), the oldest, is living in Shaunavon, Saskatchewan, **Michael** is living at Sylvan Lake, **Mary** (Mrs. Jopling) is living at Penticton, British Columbia, **John** is living at Fort Saskatchewan, Alberta, **Angus** was killed by an oil derrick in August of 1954, **Rod** is living in Port Moody, British Columbia, **Jean** (Mrs. G. McNeil) is in Surrey, British Columbia and **Murdock** is living in Calgary. My father died at Sylvan Lake in February of 1961 and my mother also died at Sylvan Lake in May 1974 at the age of ninety-five.

McNEIL: Alex McNeil settled on the N.E. 34-37-3-W5, known then as the Dick Wright place and now partly owned by the oldest son, Angus and John Murdock. There were five boys and two girls in their family. **Angus** is living at Sylvan Lake, **Mary** (Mrs. Bessler) is in Edmonton, **Don** is living in Vancouver, **Angus John** died July 2, 1969, **John** is living at Sylvan Lake, **Murdock** is living in Red Deer and **Lillian** (Mrs. Johnson) is living in Red Deer. Their children went to both Diamond Valley and Happy Hill schools.

GALBRAITH: Rod Galbraith settled on the S.W. 2-38-3-W5, known then as the Billy Woof farm and now owned by Lawrence Murphy. They had three boys; **James, Angus and Neil**, all living at the coast and all went to the Evarts school.

McLEAN: Rod McLean settled on the N.W. 35-37-3-W5, also owned at the time by Billy Woof and now owned by Scott Murphy.

John McNeil settled on the S.E. 34-37-3-W5, later known as the Gibson farm and later as the Ingvar Erickson place and now owned by Gary Stewart.

Jim McCormick settled on the S.E. 4-38-3-W5, known then as the Belke place and now owned by John Murdock.

It only took about three years for the bachelors to find out that, that way of life was not for them and both left for the sea and Vancouver, and finally found their way back to the Island of Barra. About three years later, Rod Galbraith left for Vancouver and Rod McLean left for Vermilion and later on found his way to the coast.

Alex McNeil and my father stuck it out and acquired more land as years went by. Alex died on the farm at the age of eighty on March 19, 1949. His wife died at eighty-four in June of 1964.

Our first three or four years on the farm were very hard. The first year we were eaten alive by bed bugs, and did not know at first what was causing all the welts on our bodies, until some kind neighbour told us. After that, we got some relief, as mother had every chair leg and bed leg sitting in a can of coal oil, but they would drop down on the beds regardless. Finally, in desperation, we moved out of the house in the summer of 1924, cook stove and all and had the house fumigated two weeks apart. Mother and Dad slept in a granary with some of the younger kids, three or four slept in the wagon box and I slept under it. I think it rained whole two weeks and I can see mother to this day trying desperately to cook a meal for us on that cook stove outside in the rain.

I was the official rabbit catcher and would go out after school and take the dead rabbits out of the snares and reset them. The second winter I graduated to a 22 single shot, but was only given so many shells each night, but still set my snares as I dearly wanted to shoot Jacks. Then the neighbours said, "you can't eat rabbits as they have blisters this winter" and I thought I was in seventh heaven as I hated snaring rabbit, but my mother had a different idea: She said it doesn't matter how many blisters they have, you catch them. She would cut the blisters off and boil them for so long and always said that when the first one of us died from eating blistered rabbits I could quit catching them. Lots of times when one of us got sick I hoped she blame it on the rabbits, but none of us died, and I had to continue hunting rabbits.

In about 1929, a few more settlers came into the Evarts district from the Outer Hebrides.

JAMES McNEIL settled on the N.E. 9-38-3-W5, known then as the Larry Telning homestead and is now the home of Murray Craig. They stayed about seven years and went back to Scotland.

ROD GILLIES settled on S.E. 16-38-3-W5, known then as the Gosney farm, later known as the Charlie Wright place. He stayed about six years and is still hail and hearty in Vancouver at ninety-one years old. **THE WILSONS** came to Evarts about the same time and worked for John Watson for a number of years before moving to Clan Donald.

As a footnote to this, I would like to say to anyone reading it, that all this land mentioned in this article is all today very productive, but fifty-three years ago, that whole Diamond Valley area did not look like very much.

FLOYD HEDRICK

The Hedrick family came from Oregon, to the district and filed on their homestead S.E. 14-38-3-W5 on November 1, 1902. The quarter had many big tall trees

on it. (Mr. Jack Murdock told the writer of this article, that he had given consideration to homesteading this particular quarter when he arrived here, but decided the trees were too big and thick and could see a great deal of hard work clearing and preparing the land, so he homesteaded south of this location). Mr. Hedrick did not farm the land, he had a lot of horses to ride and to drive. Hays would hook a team of horses up to a wagon or sleigh and drive to Red Deer for freight and return, by that time, the team would be broke to drive. Hedrick would hold sales right at the farm and so many early settlers and Indians were able to purchase their choices.

In 1903, Floyd built a store in the village of Evarts and later sold it to Jack Edwards. He was married and had four children. One of their little girls died while they lived in this area and before the cemetery was established, the little grave was made out on a hump in the field north of their buildings. It was closed in by a little fence.

Mr. Hedrick was present at the first school board meeting on December 20, 1902.

It is understood the family returned to Oregon, United States of America.

JOHN HILLMAN FAMILY

John Hillman, long time resident of the Evarts district, had no formal education, but became a master of many trades.

John Rognavoldur Hermanson was born in Fjall, Iceland, September 11, 1886. He came to Canada with his parents, Herman and Margaret Jonsson, who worked for a short time in Eastern Canada, before travelling to North Dakota, where Herman's brother Jon had already settled. It was here, among so many Scandinavians with the surname of Jonsson, Jensen and Johannson, that Herman decided to change his name to Hillman (for he was the man on the hill).

They were lured by tales of the Calgary, Edmonton area and it took three years to save enough money to move families and belongings. This was in 1891.

After a long arduous journey by wagon from Calgary, "City of Tents", they arrived at their new home which was a sod-roofed shelter on N.W. 9-37-2-W5. It had been an old fur traders log cabin with two rooms which housed two families with a total of five children. Later Herman homesteaded S.W. 16-37-2-W5.

It was here in the Hola district that John acquired "five winters" of formal education. The closest he came to his boyhood dream of becoming a doctor, was when he set limbs for his children, Evelyn and Clifford and delivered his son Elmer.

When he was 17, he filed for a homestead on S.E. 12-37-3-W5 and four years later, in 1907, the homestead was patented. Using his carpentry and masonry skills he built a two-storey, cement basement home for his parents in 1912, where his son Elmer and family live today. He was called upon to build the Lutheran Church at Markerville in 1907. Many buildings and their furnishings, also coffins and row boats were made by John. He also had a well-equipped blacksmith shop.

He was foreman for road construction in the Municipal District of Golden West for 17 years and from 1944, he served for 11 years as councillor of the Municipal District of Red Deer. He was elected as a

trustee in 1924 in the Evarts School District No. 736 and served for twenty years. Then he acted as trustee on the board for the Rocky Mountain School Division No. 15, for another 15 years. A charter member of the Markerville Mutual Telephone Company, John served many years as chairman. He was also a charter member of the Markerville Band (1907), playing both the alto horn and bass drum during the 30 odd years of its existence. He helped promote and organize the chautauquas that came to Markerville district. He was an active member of the Icelandic choir of Markerville. When he could, he loved to go hunting.

Halldora (Dora) Sigridur Johannson, was born on November 13, 1891, in Calgary. When still an infant, she lived for a short time in the Okanagan, then moved to Glenboro, Manitoba for a couple of years. Then they moved to Rossland, British Columbia, when her father heard of the gold boom, which proved fruitless. They made their last move to the Icelandic settlement at Tindastoll, near Markerville, in 1899.

After Dora completed grade eight at Tindastoll, she took a dress making and tailoring course at Calgary, and later worked in Red Deer as a seamstress. At age nineteen, Dora became the bride of Hannes Sigurdsson Eymundson. Hannes had homesteaded N.W. 32-37-2-W5 in 1901 and his first homestead shack is still standing. He built a two-storey structure which was completed in 1912 and all but the last three of Dora's ten



Dora and John Hillman, 1962.



Wedding 1917 — Dora and John Hillman.

children were born there. Hannes died of cancer in 1915, leaving Dora and two daughters, Johanna and Christiana. An infant son Harry, died in 1913.

In 1917, she married John Hillman. Together they built a thriving mixed farm operation, which survived with fond memories, "the dirty thirties". Like most families, they ate porridge and rice more often than usual. It was surprising how tasty porridge was, when sliced cold and topped with fruit. Dora, with her sewing ability kept her family well clothed, even though they were often remakes or hand-me-downs. Their home was always open to friends, relatives and travellers.

Dora was active in the Presbyterian Ladies Aid and Community Clubs. She was the "coffee maker" at all social functions. In later years, she purchased an electric coffee urn with her first old-age pension cheque and presented it to the Community Club.

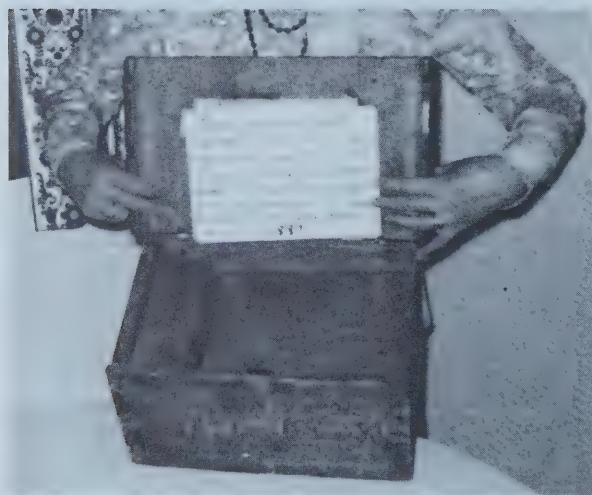
Dora's hands were never idle as she kept busy with her knitting, crocheting, quilting, embroidering and general sewing. Many a garment was worn that she had knit on her knitting machine from raw wool produced on their farm.

The Hillman family took part in social functions and singing became part of their lives. Summer and winter sports were enjoyed along the Medicine River and for Dora, relaxation was usually to bring a group of happy people together and these memories would bring vitality to the days that followed.

After completing grade nine, Hanna took art lessons in Calgary, Shana preferred to help her mother with the



Mr. and Mrs. John Hillman family 1961, Elmer, Shauna, Bernese, Marilyn, June, Evelyn, Clifford, Doris, Hanna.



Evelyn (Hillman) Johannson with family treasure, hand-carved wooden box dated, 1907.

work-load at home. The five remaining daughters completed grade twelve, with Doris going on to get her Registered Nurse training and Evelyn and June becoming teachers. The two sons Cliff and Elmer carried on the farming tradition, Cliff at Evarts and Elmer at Marker-ville.

All nine Hillman children live in Alberta. **Mrs. Edward (Johanna) Day** of Calgary; children Lois and Ruth. **Mrs. Barney (Christiana) Eymundson** of Flatbush; children Harry (deceased), Thorel and Julianna. **Clifford**, married Doreen Stauffer of Evarts; children Gary, Bever-ly and Greg. **Mrs. John (Evelyn) Johannson** of Spruce

View; children Donna, Dell, Allan, Brian, Lyle, Curtis, Findlay and Trudy. **Elmer**, married Viola Johannson of Hola; children Daryl, Judy, Randy and Dwayne. **Mrs. Wyman (Doris) Campbell** of Burdett; children Dale, Cheryl, Howard, Glenn and Craig. **Mrs. Robert (Bernese) Lewis** of Spruce View; children Wayne, Wendy, Brenda, Jacqueline, Lori and Billy-Jo. **Mrs. James (June) Parker** of St. Albert; children John, Joanne, Roderick and Elizabeth and **Mrs. Ronald (Marilyn) Bell** of Fawcett; children Rhonda, Jeanette, Linda, Dennis, Melody (deceased), and Clifford.

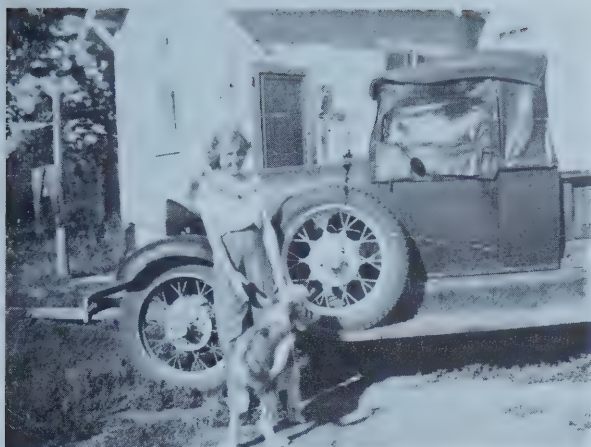
John died April 24, 1963; Dora died April 23, 1973. They came; they stayed; they left their mark upon the Evarts district. The mark they left was accepted and respected.

Some of the employee's who have worked on the farm have been: Louis Stoyka, Louis Kopesko, Henry and Sophia Meyers and Al and Ann Donkers.

THE CLIFFORD HILLMANS

I, Cliff Hillman was born and have lived in this district all of my life. Living and working with my parents, John and Dora Hillman until 1947. In 1946, I purchased the N.E. 31-37-2-W5, from Mrs. Elizabeth Smith which had been farmed by Lloyd and Langton Wells. In 1947, I built a house on this land and married Doreen Stauffer, who came with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Stauffer and family from Alsask, Saskatchewan. We have resided here ever since. Doreen attended school at Evarts, Dickson, Eckville and Red Deer. She was supervisor at Hola school for one year. She is a charter member of the Evarts Community club and has been a leader of the Evarts Garden and Clothing club. Doreen is an active member of the Benalto Baptist church, teaching Sunday school for several years, and is at present their organist.

Our family consists of: **Gary**, our first son who was born in 1949, **Beverley** in 1952 and **Greg** in 1957. Gary and Beverley started their schooling at Evarts, one-room school, riding a shetland pony to and fro. Gary, has his pilots licence and is an aircraft maintenance worker at Red Deer Industrial Airport. Gary, married Barbara



"Deenie" and Ruth Johnson.

Wittwer of Stettler on May 30, 1970. They have two children, Lana and Corey. Beverley, a dental assistant, married Edwin Riediger of Tofield in 1971 and with their daughter Monica live in Sherwood Park, Alberta, where Edwin is administrator of Robin Hood Retarded Children's school and homes. Greg, has his pilots licence, an active member of the Benalto 4-H beef club and is employed on his father's farm. Greg has his own herd of registered Simmental cattle known as "Wild Rose Simmentals".

I took my schooling at Evarts including grade nine and I must say I got along with all my teachers. I found it very difficult passing my grade nine as my Dad was earning extra money building roads and carpentry, making extra work for me to do at home.

In my early teens, I remember so well the excitement of helping dad break horses to drive, having many runaways, especially with our old school horse "Dan Patch". He was not very fast, but many times we had to meet Dave Braton with his new John Deere tractor on the road, and no way could we hold him back. Many times there was buggy and harness scattered all the way home. My sister Shana, brother Elmer and I did most of the horse back riding, and many times we swam our horses across the Medicine River to get cows or horses from the pasture. There were a lot of things our parents asked us to do which we didn't think we could, but know now they never asked us to do anything unless they were sure we could. There was no such word as can't. As a large family being raised on the banks of the river we were taught to respect the river especially during flood seasons.

Cliff and Doreen's first motor vehicle was a 1929 Model A Ford quarter ton truck bought in 1947 from Wilbur Lindquist of Benalto for \$425.00. This truck was later bought by Steve Reighley of Happy Hill and in that district was better known as "Deenie". Steve used it to travel on muddy roads and take fuel to tractors in the field. When Steve had his farm sale, Cliff bought it back for \$373.00 and at present is owned by Gary, oldest son of Cliff and Doreen's who is restoring it.

Through the years we have had good neighbors and especially helpful in need of help. Our closest ones being the Hannas which we consider part of our Hillman family.

Note: Clifford and Doreen have taken an active part in the Evarts Community and also the Benalto Fair and Stampede.

CLIFFORD GARY HILLMAN

Upon completion of my high school at Lindsay Thurber Composite High School in Red Deer in 1967, I attended Berean Bible College in Calgary for two years. It was at Berean in my first year, that Barbara Anne Wittwer of the Stettler district, and I met, now knowing that in May of 1970 we would marry. After we were married, Barb continued to work as a legal stenographer and I worked at the Nevis Gas Plant. In the fall of 1972, we moved to Calgary, where I was employed at Chinook Flying Service Ltd. at the International Airport. We were only there for a few months when my dad had a heart attack, and we moved to the farm at Evarts to help out. On October 26, **Lana Rae** was born.

In 1973 I began working at the Red Deer Industrial Airport as an aircraft maintenance engineer apprentice. In 1975, we took over the farm of my late grandparents, John and Dora Hillman. On February 12, 1976, a son, **Corey Allen** was born, and September 1976, we started Hillman Air Ltd., our own aircraft maintenance business at the Red Deer Industrial Airport.

We are members of the Benalto Baptist Church, where we're active in both the Crusader Girls' Club, and Christian Service Brigade for boys.

JOHN K. HOLSWORTH — S.E. 20-38-2-W. 5

John Holsworth first came to Alberta in 1906, working for the summer and harvest season in High River area. He spent the winter of 1906-07 near Benalto on a farm with his friend Dick Tennant, who had come to Evarts from Red Cloud, Nebraska. John returned to his home in Nebraska in the spring of 1907. It was then he married Bertha Edith Sidlo, and in 1909 a son **Eston Fay** was born.

In the spring of 1914, John and his family came to Red Deer in a colonist car, on the railway, settling in the Evarts district where they farmed for a short time on the farm owned by John Sjare. They later moved to their own farm one and a half miles north.

A second son **John Robert** was born in 1916. It was in 1924 the family moved to Sylvan Lake town, where they made their home until 1947, when John and Bertha retired to Courtney, British Columbia.

John was an ardent hunter and fisherman, spending many summer hours on the launch on Sylvan Lake, called the "Norell". He passed away in 1957, and Bertha in 1972.

Eston married Edith Jamieson in 1936 and since 1945 they have made their home in Alix, owning the store there with his brother. They have three sons; Ralph, Ross and James.

John and Lucille Hemeyer were married in 1947 and also live in Alix, working in partnership with his brother Eston. They have a daughter Marilyn and a son Jack.

WILLIAM HOLSWORTH SENIOR

Mr. and Mrs. Holsworth (Will and Rosa) spent the first twenty years of their married life farming near Red Cloud, Nebraska. They rented land, and moved repeatedly from farm to farm. There was no hope of ow-



Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Holsworth Sr.

ning the land, because it was selling at three or four hundred dollars an acre. Will's brother, John, had already settled in the Evarts district and letters from him, telling of the good land available for about fifteen dollars an acre, sounded encouraging.

In the fall of 1914, they packed their belongings, and boarded the train for Canada. History was repeating itself. For in 1869, Will's parents, (William and Sarah), had emigrated from England to Barrie, Ontario. But, by that time all the good land in Ontario was already settled. After the birth of Will, they left Ontario to homestead near Red Cloud, Nebraska.

Mr. and Mrs. Holsworth (Will and Rosa) brought their family of six, Mabel 18, Edna 16, David 14, William 12, Ethel ten, and Clara eight, with them to Canada by train. They were accompanied by a neighbour, Mrs. Alice Tennant, who was anxious to join her sons, Richard and Charlie. They had homesteaded in the Evarts and Diamond Valley districts. Friends contributed to the lunch which was packed in a large wicker basket, enough food for nine people for at least four days.

In Red Deer, a wagon and team with a driver were hired from the livery stable, and then the five — to — six hour wagon ride to John Holsworth's home started. He was living on the John Sjare farm in the Evarts district. The women and girls perched on the trunks (the round-topped one proved most uncomfortable), but the boys, Dave and Bill, walked part of the way.

As they were nearing the Marianne district, a sing-song was organized to bolster spirits. "Home, Sweet Home" was being rendered rather lustily when they were stopped by Mrs. Bleay, who came out to the road to warn the newcomers that it would be 'home, sweet home' all right, if they didn't watch out for a bad swamp about one and a half miles down the road, and to go around it for sure.

Next, they stopped at Erick Mannerfeldt's house to inquire the way to John Holsworth's. Ragnar Mannerfeldt warned them to go around the swamp which was between the Mannerfeldt farm and the Sjare farm. When they reached it, the driver was sure that he could go through it, as he had done so the previous winter. With firm persuasion from Mr. Holsworth, he did drive around it, and on to John Holsworth's where they planned to stay until they could get settled on their own.

The next morning, the men went duck hunting and the driver started back to Red Deer. He tried going through the swamp and mired his horses. Back to Holsworth's he came, soaking wet and shaking with the cold. By the time he was dried out, and warmed up with hot tea, the men had returned from duck hunting. They went with the driver to the swamp. The Mannerfeldt brothers, Ed and Ragnar, came too, with their team, and chains and ropes, they managed to drag the horses out one by one and finally, the lumber wagon.

A week later, the carload of settlers effects arrived at Benalto. Later that fall, John Holsworth and his family moved to their newly acquired farm, the Matson homestead, leaving the Sjare house for Will Holsworth and his family. In December, they rented a farm about three miles north belonging to Douglas Walker. It was another very cold winter, the huge wood-pile was really needed.

Holsworths had their share of hardships. A freak hail storm ruined their first crop just when it was ripe and ready to cut. But to the children, living in Canada it was a happy adventure. There were trips to Sylvan Lake for fishing and for picking raspberries, and the big picnics were fun. Rabbit hunts were a social event. Everyone would gather at one home in the neighbourhood, and while the men went out to hunt, the women prepared a bountiful meal. The children had a lively time playing with their friends. The men arrived back with a wagon-load of rabbits and good appetites for the food. Target shoots were in vogue at these parties for men and women.

In 1916, Will Holsworth purchased a half-section of raw land, N. 21-38-2 W5, from Parks and Carscallen, real estate agents in Red Deer. The owner, Mr. Dunn, lived in the United States. The next year, with the help of his sons, he cleared and broke about thirty-five acres on the east quarter. This breaking was done with a walking plow using four head of horses.

The following spring, the Chinese restaurant was moved from Evarts. It was jacked up, sleighs were put under it, and eight teams of horses pulled it to its present location on the east quarter. Then the family moved in. The next year an addition was constructed using lumber from the Evarts creamery, which Mr. Holsworth bought and tore down. Mr. McKee built the addition and finished up the doors and windows.

In the early twenties, school land was put up for auction in Eckville. Mr. Holsworth purchased the S.E. 29-38-2 W5. This was unfenced, raw land which had been free range and was burned over every year, consequently there were no large trees. Mr. Holsworth bought a Van Slyke breaking plow and used eight head of horses on it.

A few years later, he purchased the N.E. 20-38-2 W5, which he had been renting from Charlie Johnson. It was the Johnson homestead and therefore it was fenced and had twenty-five to thirty acres broken which had been seeded to hay. Much of this quarter was very wet and several years passed by before the rest of it dried up enough to be broken.

The eldest daughter, **Mabel**, married Charles Tennant on June 26, 1918, and moved to his homestead in the Diamond Valley District. They had two children Harold and Alice. The second daughter, **Edna**, married Edwin Mannerfeldt on December 8, 1920 and lived on his farm

in the Evarts district. On June 23, 1925, **Ethel** married William Ormiston McKee and moved to the hamlet of Condor where Orme was the elevator agent. After a few years they moved to a farm in the Benalto district. They had two children, Ronald and Margaret. The youngest daughter, **Clara**, married Elmer McKee on June 14, 1928. They resided on the McKee farm. A few years later they moved to the N.E. 34-38-2 W5, opposite the Kuusamo School. They had two daughters, Doris and Jean. **William A.** Holsworth married Laura Norton on July 18, 1930 and remained on the home farm for five years. **David** Holsworth married Elsie McKee on December 15, 1930. They lived on David's farm and then on the William Holsworth farm.

Mr. and Mrs. Holsworth, Senior, retired from farming in 1930, and moved to an acreage near Benalto. Mr. Holsworth served on the council of the Municipal District of Golden West. He took an active interest in the Benalto Agricultural Society of which he was one of the founding members being president in 1930. He served on the Evarts School Board from 1927 to 1930. They attended the Evarts Presbyterian Church and later the Benalto Baptist Church which was organized in 1928. He was a deacon in the Baptist Church at Benalto for many years. Mr. Holsworth died on July 16, 1947, at the age of seventy-six.

Mrs. Holsworth then purchased the house across the corner from the Baptist Church and moved into Benalto. Only the lane separated her garden from that of her sister-in-law, Mrs. W. (Ruth) Burdick. She resided in Benalto until shortly before her death on November 7, 1958, at the age of eighty-four.

DAVID KING HOLSWORTH

I moved with my family in 1914, to a half section of land owned by Douglas Walker, from Red Cloud, Nebraska, U.S.A. We lived here for three years. Dad then bought the North half 21-38-2-5. This was raw land, with no buildings, so we bought the old Chinese restaurant at Evarts and moved it to our farm in 1917, for a house. To this we built on another section. We also bought the Evarts Creamery and tore it down at Evarts and hauled the lumber home to build the rest of the buildings here on the farm. The family made the move to our new farm after this was done in 1918.

I started working for John Nitzel well-drilling outfit, and in-between times I worked for Mr. Snyder, clearing and breaking land. In 1923, we bought a well-drilling outfit from Mr. Chamberlain, and drilled wells till 1937 when I sold it to Mr. Aker. My brother Bill and I bought a threshing outfit in 1927. We did custom threshing for several years.

I married Elsie McKee of Benalto, in 1930, and continued farming in the district. For several years we lived on the old home farm, and in 1943 we moved to Salmon Arm, British Columbia, where we continued farming, and also bought a motel and run it for a few years. We are now retired, still living in Salmon Arm.

We had five children, **Howard** (deceased), **Evelyn Dash**, **Hope**, **Elsie VanDermeer**, **Salmon Arm**, **Marilyn White**, **Knutsford**, **David** and **Bernadette**, **North Burnaby**, all in **British Columbia**. We have ten grandchildren.

MR. AND MRS. W. A. HOLSWORTH (Bill and Laura)

On July 18, 1930, William Holsworth and Laura Norton were married in Benalto. Laura was the eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Archibald Norton. The ceremony was performed in the garden of the Norton home by Rev. Stevens, the Presbyterian minister. Laura had been teaching school for three years, one year at Happy Hill, and two at Kuusamo. Bill had been farming with his father, and continued on his own for the first five years of their married life.

But the depression was quite a discouragement to young farmers. Laura recalls selling eggs at the O. C. Hansen store in Benalto for five cents a dozen, and then, after they were government graded, Mr. Hansen asked for a few cents back. Making butter to sell, raising and dressing chickens to be sold for twenty-five cents each, were unprofitable ventures. Bill bought two weaner pigs from Orrin Wylie for five dollars. After they were fed to market weight, they sold for eight dollars. Grain was not worth much, eight to ten cents a bushel for barley and oats, and wheat fifteen to twenty cents.

Holsworths decided to stop farming, and had an auction sale in the fall of 1935. It was one of the last sales which Mr. Frank Jenkins held. Mr. Clyde Stauffer who was a newcomer to the Evarts district, sold some of the items.

For the next three years, Bill and Laura Holsworth had a store in Tees, but business was poor. As the depression was still on, people managed with very few groceries. In 1938 Holsworths gladly came back to Benalto to farm again. This time they lived close to the Benalto school, which was an advantage to their four children, Rosemary, Elizabeth, William, and Joan.

In the year 1940-41, Laura taught the Evarts school, then for nine years the Kuusamo school, and then 21 years in the Benalto school, retiring in 1974.

The eldest daughter, **Rosemary**, taught for a number of years in Edmonton, and is at present a music consultant for the Edmonton School Board.

Elizabeth married Le Rae (Hap) Nielsen. They live near Benalto with their five children, Arthur, Ann, Elizabeth, Mary, and Christine.

William married Carol Williams in Perth, Australia with their four children, Mark, Ian, Trevor, and Cynthia.

Joan married Stanley Mannerfeldt, the eldest son of Gustaf Mannerfeldt of Centerville district. They live in Mill Woods, Edmonton, and have three children, Rosemary, William, and Marilyn.

Bill Holsworth retired from active farming in 1970, but Holsworths continued living on their farm near Benalto.

LAURA HOLSWORTH — 1940-1941

In the fall of 1940, the Evarts School was without a teacher, as Mr. Willing, who had been teaching from 1938-1940 had enlisted in the Armed Forces. At this time, married women began teaching again. The school year of 1940-1941, started three weeks later than usual because of a polio epidemic. But the work to be taught in each subject remained the same as that of a full school year. The pupils were most co-operative, and we found time to present a Christmas program.

I drove the car every day from Benalto, not a very long way, but sometimes extremely difficult. The mud was deep and sticky in the spring, for there was no gravel on the road. In the winter the roads were not snow-plowed. The older boys would run the motor of the car at noon and recesses so that the car would start after school.

WILLIAM W. HOWE

Mr. Howe homesteaded the N.E. 14-38-3-W5 on February 18, 1904. He was an auctioneer by trade. He was Chairman and Secretary-treasurer of the Medicine Valley School district Number 736, North West Territories for a few years. He built a house just across the creek from where Ed Medin had his house. His daughter, **Jeanette** was in the first class at Evarts school, he also had a son Jack. They left the district in 1906.

ABRAM HUHTALA FAMILY

Being of an adventurous nature and hearing of opportunities in the new world, Abram Huhtala left his home in Siikajoki in the country of Oulu, Finland, before the turn of the century. He followed the example of many Scandinavian immigrants, arriving in the state of Minnesota, United States, finding work in the mines in Ely.

It was here he met and married his future wife, Helka Mary (Salo), who had followed her sister Hilma and brother Matt from Kaustinen, county of Vaasa, Finland, landing in Duluth and later finding employment in a boarding house in Ely.

Following their marriage in 1900, they moved to the mines in Rock Springs and Diamondville, Wyoming. It was here their first son, Frans William was born on January 9, 1902. In March of that same year, leaving his wife and son behind, Mr. Huhtala and his friend John Lassila, decided to find a new home in Canada. Land was to be had free by improving and living on a quarter section for three years. After arriving in Red Deer, they made their way west and chose adjoining quarters on 36-38-3-W5, Mr. Huhtala choosing the southwest and John Lassila the southeast quarter. Assisting one another they each erected a small log house. He sent word to his wife to dispose of furnishings in Wyoming and while waiting for their arrival, he cleared a plot of ground large enough to grow potatoes, the first year.

With the help of a good friend Mr. Andrew Jarvin, who acted as auctioneer, Mrs. Huhtala sold their furniture and boarded a train for her new home in Canada, accompanied by Isaac Luoma, who also was coming to homestead here. Mother and son of six months arrived in Red Deer on June 26, 1902, having paid a fare of one cent per mile. Mr. Huhtala, who had no means of travel besides walking, hired Abram Holappa with his team of horses and wagon to meet them in Red Deer. Their first purchase, besides groceries was a door for their home and flour sacks to serve as covers for windows to keep out the hordes of mosquitoes, yet give light into the house.

Mrs. Huhtala, having heard stories about Indians in her new country, was a bit apprehensive about meeting them. Her fears were somewhat overcome on leaving Red Deer. Following a trail through the trees, they came upon a fallen log blocking their way. Just then an Indian, carrying an axe, came along and obligingly cut and

removed the tree. She declared later, she had always remembered her first encounter with an Indian with gratitude.

Travel through forests and muskegs was slow, so the first night was spent at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Alex Pasma, a small 12x14 house, located two miles west of Snake (Sylvan) Lake.

As all pioneer women Mrs. Huhtala worked side by side with her husband, grubbing trees and willows to clear the land. She did her baking and washing at night while he wove a net for fishing and tanned hides for shoes which he also made. Fish was plentiful in the Medicine River and Snake Lake which, along with rabbits and up-land birds, were the source of their meat supply. The first summer they bought a milk cow from a farmer in Burnt Lake and a neighbor, Jack Warwick presented them with a hen and seven chicks.

The weather was rainy and humid, mosquitoes were thick making clearing the land very trying. Household facilities were very crude. Wash tubs were a wooden barrel sawed in two, It was necessary to carry water from a slough a quarter mile away until a well could be dug the following year. This was also worked on together, he in the well filling a bucket with clay and rock which she winched up and emptied, being several months pregnant at the time.

With the coming of winter it was necessary for Mr. Huhtala to leave home to earn money working in the mines for next years efforts. He again left his family behind to find work in the Frank area. He was there at the time of the slide, but was in a neighboring town at the time. Word of the tragedy reached the people at home and many anxious days were spent before they found out who had survived.

Meantime, Mrs. Huhtala took charge of her son, cow and chickens at home. Indians often passed by and having never quite overcome her fear of them, she would take her baby and hide in the trees until they were gone. She had some Finnish neighbors, Mr. and Mrs. Salamonson and Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Johnson and family who would drop by to visit, which was a comfort to her.

With the money earned in the mines they were able to buy a team of oxen, a hand breaking plow and other implements. More land was cleared, enough to grow oats for feed for the stock. Often Mrs. Huhtala would drive the team of oxen on the new breaking. One day, while discing the oxen were stung by horse flies, causing a runaway. Losing her balance her foot slipped between the disc blades and under the axle. Further tragedy was averted when the oxen made for the bush and ended up one on each side of a poplar tree.

Groceries and other supplies were in Red Deer, twenty-five miles away. Neighbors took orders from one another taking turns in making the trip. Driving a team of horses, it was necessary to leave home at 3:00 a.m. in order to make it back by 10:00 p.m. During the frosty winter nights the anxious family at home, awaiting his return could hear the screech of the sleigh runners while still miles away. Sounds carried far on still nights. Mr. Lassila, the closest neighbor was a talented violinist. Often, when walking to visit the Huhtalas he played his violin, which they could hear the entire distance. It was also possible for people to leave their name in a building in Evarts and everyones mail was picked up in Red Deer

and placed in a box. Each family was obliged to pick out their own letters.

Life eased a bit when the village of Evarts was established four miles to the south. The grocery store there was operated in turn by Smith Brothers, Robinson and Killick. Here it was possible to exchange potatoes and eggs for groceries.

The Canadian Pacific Railroad came through in 1914. By this time enough land had been cleared to grow oats which were sold to the railroad crew for horse feed and also wheat, which was ground for flour in Lacombe. At this time Mr. Huhtala purchased the adjoining quarter section to the north from Jack Robinson. He also bought the southwest quarter of 32-38-2-5 from John Koski. Later he was to sell this quarter to Jack Simpson and purchase a school quarter two miles to the north.

The highlight of the year was the harvest season. Grain was cut with a binder, stooked and finally the dry bundles were stacked to await the arrival of the threshing crew. Often it became necessary to wait until after snowfall as the crew worked from farm to farm. Piles of firewood were hauled to the site to provide heat for the steam engine. The sound of the engine whistle told everyone around the countryside whose grain was being threshed.

Throughout these years, six more children were born. Each was born at home with a kindly neighbor lady acting as midwife. With the advent of more families of small children, a school became a necessity.

The Melita School district was founded in 1906. The school was built later that year by Mr. Matchett. Mr. Warwick having hauled the lumber from Red Deer. This gave the family a school within one and a half miles. Mr. Huhtala served on the school board for sometime. He was also interested in the formation of the Wheat Pool of which he was an ardent member until his death in 1927.

Mrs. Huhtala, with the help of her family continued farming. Later, she married Charles Raunio of Rocky Mountain House and together they lived on the farm until retiring in 1953 at which time they sold it to Evald and Sylvia Larson. They bought a home in Eckville where they lived until 1966. In 1967, they moved to the new Senior Citizens Lodge in Sylvan Lake. Mr. Raunio passed away in 1971 at which time Mrs. Raunio moved to the home of her daughter Olga in Sylvan Lake. She passed away in July 1974 at the age of 93 ½ years. She was the last of the early pioneers of the Benalto area. Both she and Mr. Huhtala as well as the three sons are buried in the Kuusamo cemetery.

Mr. and Mrs. Huhtala had a family of seven children, two of whom died at a very early age, **Edward** at 14 months and **Arthur** at two and a half years. **William** moved to Karelia in the United Soviet Socialist Republic in 1931, where he passed away in 1942 at the age of 40 years. He is survived by his wife Lillian and three daughters, Violet, Emily and Alice.

Olga, married George Ignatius and they farmed three miles north of the home farm. They had two daughters, Edith and Hazel. Her husband passed away in 1953. Later, she married Andrew Harvilow with whom she retired to Sylvan Lake in 1962. **Oiva**, married Ingrid Delaney. They had two children Calvin and Phyllis, farming in the Kuusamo district until 1962, when he retired to Sylvan Lake. He passed away in 1972, at the age of 60

years. **Oili**, married Clarence Anderson. They also farmed in the Benalto area. They had a son, Gary and daughter Delores. Clarence passed away in 1972, after having retired to Rocky Mountain House where Oili still resides. **Arthur**, the youngest of the family married Emma Mottus. They have one daughter Lynn and reside in Edmonton. An electrician by trade, he is presently working in Fort McMurray on the tar sands development.

EDWARD G. HUSSEY — written by Marianne (Hussey) Martin

My mother, father, sister **Lena** and brother **Bert** came from Bristol, England and settled on N.E. 12-38-3-W. 5 near Evarts for thirteen years. Bert and I attended school there. Around 1916, the homestead was sold and we moved to Santa Rosa, Florida, United States. Harry Hill came from England and worked for my father at Evarts, he also became Lena's husband. I, Marianne married Claude Martin. We all moved to Greenup, Illinois, United States. Lena and Harry have two sons. Mother, Dad, Bert and Claude have passed on. I live on a little farm here at Greenup, Illinois.



Bert Hussey.

Note: A recent letter from Edward J. Hill of Broadview, Illinois, a son of Harry and Lena Hill tells us that, his parents now live at Oblong, Illinois, his father was 90 years old in August, 1976.

Further information states that Edward G. Hussey homesteaded N.E. 10-38-3-W. 5, which is in the Diamond Valley district, but lived in the Evarts district on the farm now owned by the Harvey Jackson Estate (N.E. 12-38-3-W. 5.) His name is noticed many times in the record books, as an official auditor.

JOSEPH WILLIAM IVY — material obtained from Archives, Red Deer Public Library

Joseph William Ivy was born in 1864 in Calumet, Michigan, or possibly Lancaster, Wisconsin. He was a graduate of the University of Wisconsin, and was a lawyer. For a time he was Secretary to Senator John Coit Spooner (Republican—Wisconsin, 1885-91, 1897-1907)

probably during the earlier term. Subsequently, he was prosecuting attorney for the city of Portland. From June, 1897-1902, he served as a collector of customs at Sitka, Alaska. I believe he moved on to Seattle, which seems to have been his base until 1911, during which time he was actively interested in gold mining, real estate, and investments. My information is even more sparse after that date, though it seems he was engaged in ranching near Calgary, and practiced law in Des Moines. He apparently bought 640 to 1280 acres near Calgary about April, 1906, and expected to buy more. Evarts, Alberta is mentioned as the location of one of his ranches.

An Octogenarian's memoirs in the Red Deer Advocate 23 October, 1963, said that Jerry Chapman and Joe Ivy had settled on land described as Twp 38-3-5 Section one, at Evarts before the First World War. Unfortunately their names do not appear in land title records. Mrs. Ivy was owner of this land according to an undated map 1921. J. W. Ivy purchased this half section of land from two sisters, Sadie and Jessie Caton in 1906, who had originally purchased it from the C.P.R. in 1903. Mr. and Mrs. Ivy lived in a sod shack on this location. Some say it was a log house. Jerry Chapman apparently was later associated with him in his ranching endeavors. Information as to how long the Ivy's lived at Evarts is not known, but a local newspaper item in 1909 indicated he was no longer in the district. This land subsequently was owned by Frank Jackson, a railway contractor, who pastured horses used for construction projects on it. It is presently owned by Clyde Stauffer.

CYRUS B. JACKSON

Mr. Jackson was raised in Pennsylvania, U.S.A., also married there to Jessie, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George W. Robinson, early homesteaders in the Evarts district. Cyrus and Jessie came to the Evarts district in 1905, settling on S.E. 12-38-3-W5, (where Clyde Stauffer now resides). They had a family of three sons, **Earl, Cliff-**



Cyrus Jackson family, 1892.

ford, Kenneth and a daughter **Lila**. Tragedy struck this family when in June, 1910, Earl and Clifford were drowned in the Medicine River near Evarts. They lived on their farm until Jessie Jackson passed away in 1924 and Cyrus Jackson in August, 1928, at the age of 72 years. Their daughter Lila married Jim Tobin, they had a son, Jim and resided in the Evarts district until Lila passed away January 2, 1928, when Jim was only three years old. Mr. and Mrs. Jackson, Mrs. Tobin, Earl and Clifford are all buried in Medicine Valley cemetery, west of Evarts.

KENNETH JACKSON

Kenneth (Slim) as he was often called was the son of Cyrus and Jessie Jackson. He attended school at Evarts. He was a bachelor; but for a number of years had Mr.



Ken Jackson.

and Mrs. Max Hall and family and Mr. and Mrs. Ardell and family living with him, Ken will be remembered riding his horse, and leading his Clydesdale stallion, traveling to different farmers homes, usually staying overnight while on his route. Kenneth carried on farming the family farm, until his death in 1945. He is buried beside his family relatives in the Medicine Valley cemetery.



Frank Jackson's string of mules.

FRANK JACKSON — S.E. 12-38-3-W. 5

In the year 1920, or there abouts, Mr. Frank Jackson bought land in the Evarts district, which is now the Stauffer farm. Mr. Jackson was a railroad contractor, building in North Dakota, Saskatchewan and Alberta. He also built a network of irrigation ditches in southern Alberta. Brooks, Bassano, and Nobleford were some of the places he worked, also the first 20 miles of No. 2 highway north of Calgary, the Irricana railway and Lacombe west.

Barney Eymundson relates that in 1926, he went to work for Frank on his railroad contract. The outfit was camped 11 miles north of Hanna. This particular camp had 120 dump wagons, each pulled by three horses or mules, and he being a green-horn was one of the mule-skinners, and as he joked, never did become a horse-skinner. Top wages for mule-skinners was 45 dollars per month, and you were entitled to two wool blankets at the commissary at four dollars each.

Mr. Jackson bought the property at Evarts for the purpose of wintering his outfit of approximately 300 head of mules and horses. Mr. Jackson did not make his home on the land that he bought here, as he had his home in Calgary, where he and Mrs. Jackson lived. He had men to care for the stock, and kept a housekeeper on the farm.

Henry Johnson, an acquaintance of Frank's, remembered vividly all-night round-ups of the mules and horses on the farm, driving them to Benalto, to the stockyards there. Breakfast would be eaten in the Benalto cafe, and then the job of loading all those stubborn mules. Henry claims that Frank was the only man who could out smart a mule. Henry went on remembering when the new school was built at Evarts, the school board had agreed to donate the old building for the purpose of a community hall, payment being the removal of same from the property. The first attempt at moving the heavy old building was made with 24 head of mules and horses owned by Frank. Other attempts were also unsuccessful as well, using Braton's and Hanna's John Deere tractors with the mules. The old building had settled in to the ground quite comfortably and did not intend to budge. Johnson's 25-75 Case steam engine was also added to the present power, but it still refused to move too far until

Frank came up with idea of cutting green logs and letting the school roll on them. They didn't roll as expected but the bark skinned off, and they were slippery enough to do the job of lubrication, allowing the job to be done.

Another worthy job, taken from the church minutes, was when Frank made it possible for the church to get a coat of paint.

It has also been mentioned that Frank Jackson had a very good knowledge of the contract business, and a fine ability to make good estimates of work to be done, and the tools needed.

An auction sale was held on the Jackson farm in the fall of 1935, thus ended a very colorful career in the construction business. Lambert Boles was the foreman at the Jackson ranch, Bob Ford, Dave Wecker and Robbie Gowans were just a few of the many men who worked for him.

HARVEY JACKSON — written by Leila Jackson

My name is Mrs. Leila Ellen Jackson, wife of the late Harvey W. Jackson and daughter-in-law of the above mentioned Frank Jackson. We had one son **Ervie H.** and daughter **Fern.** Ervie lives in Calgary and is in the Real Estate business. He has two sons, Andy and Gary. Andy is now on the teaching staff in Olds, Alberta, while Gary is still attending University here in Calgary. Ervie married Miss Catherine Cockburn (Kay) of Inverness, Scotland, during the war years. Ervie served in the Armed Forces from September, 1940-October, 1945. Fern married Leslie Powers of Lacombe, Alberta, who has since deceased. She has four children, one daughter Heather, who is married to John Soby of Calgary; three sons, Doug, Ron and David, all living and working in Calgary.

Harvey and I moved to Evarts from Strathmore, after spending the winter in Rimbey, Alberta, in the month of March, 1926. We located one and a half miles west of the Hamlet of Evarts N.E. 12-38-3-W. 5 and resided there until 1943. We owned three quarters of land, of which there were 100 acres cultivated. The remainder of the land was cleared by hand and breaking plow drawn by horses. We moved into a six roomed one



Harvey Jackson, hunter.

and a half storey house. I believe it was built by a previous owner, Mr. Hussey. We had wonderful neighbors, who made us so very welcome to the community. They were and still are my very dear friends. Ervie and Fern both attended school in Evarts during the years of 1926-1943. I had the pleasure of boarding Margaret Gordon, teacher, who was a very special person, a real friend to our family up until the time of her death.

For entertainment in the winter months, there was hockey, curling, socials and hardtime dances, in the old school house. It was also very pleasant visiting back and forth among the neighbors. A real annual event were the Church Suppers. In summer, there was baseball, church picnics and of course the Benalto Stampede. I remember one winter night when Harvey, Mr. John Watson, Mr. Andrew Stewart and Mr. Arthur Staniforth, went down to Sylvan Lake to curl for the Atlas Cup. It was 60 degrees below fahrenheit. I guess they enjoyed the trip as they were fortunate in winning their game.

I was President of the Evarts Ladies Aid for some years. We had some fine quilters among our ladies. We made quilts and raffled them. This helped to pay the



Ervie Jackson leaving for overseas, 1941.

preacher of the church, who came faithfully to Evarts from Sylvan Lake, Sunday after Sunday. The ladies of our district had many talents. Mrs. A. Stewart played the organ in the church and also sang very nicely. Mrs. Arthur Staniforth and Mrs. Alex Duncan both sang in the church and at social functions. The men too entertained in music and song. Mr. David McNeil played the violin. Mr. Frew played the accordion, Jimmy Frew sang mostly Scottish songs and Mr. A. Stewart sang at many functions. One of Mr. Stewart's favorites was "When Father Papered the Parlor". He also recited Robbie Burns poems.

In 1943 we moved from Evarts district to Calgary, where Harvey became involved in the Real Estate business. He passed away in 1964. I have remained living in our home in Calgary.

MRS. MARCIA A. (KRAUSE) JOHANSSON — 1955-1956

I taught at Evarts School during the term 1955-56, the next-to-last year of its operation. There were children in grades one through six plus grade nine. I recall rushing from the intricacies of beginning algebra to the vagaries of Dick and Jane with brief stops in the middle rows for fractions and percentages. I suppose we were well into "individualized instruction", though the term had not yet been invented!

I recall, too, the occasional malfunctioning of the furnace in the basement which could send us gasping for air as smoke rather than heat issued from the registers. That furnace knew an amateur was handling its operation, for when one of the bigger boys took over, it behaved very satisfactorily! The excitement that thrilled the children as we began to practice the drills, carols, and playlets for the Christmas concert was infectious.

But the most poignant memories are those of the kindness shown me by both pupils and parents, the cold but beautiful winter mornings as the mist began to rise from the river nearby, and the wonderland of lilacs that surrounded the teacherage in spring.

ERIK J. JOHNSON

Erik left Sweden, in 1901, arriving in Red Deer, in 1902. He worked in the Red Deer brick-yards for a year or two before homesteading the S.E. 10-38-3-W. 5. He



remained a bachelor throughout his life. A very quiet man who did a lot of reading and took special enjoyment in the things of nature. He cleared the entire quarter by himself with the axe and grub hoe and used to sell cordwood. Peter Stewart rented and farmed his land for 35 consecutive years. His groceries were delivered to him by neighbors. He passed away in an Edmonton hospital in 1962, at the age of 83 years. In 1961, Mr. Johnson filled in a census questionnaire and sent it to the census taker, it was done in beautiful handwriting.

This is a sketch of Erik Johnson's dwelling, a well built frame building about 12 x 16, built in the early 1900s. The sloping board above the door is fastened in such a manner that the moisture which runs off the roof will not fall on the doorstep. The little shelf by the side of the door was undoubtedly a place for feeding birds. The lean-to is built of neatly hewn logs and is entirely separate from the house proper. It was most likely used as a store room. The little gate leaning against the house is made from small poplar stakes and the garden was fenced in this same manner.

OLAF (OLE) JOHNSON S.W. 16-38-2-W5

Ole Johnson came to the John Sjare farm in our calculations in 1930, farming there for about 15 years. Of course this was the days of horse-power, and Ole's encouragement to his horses rang loud and clear throughout the neighbourhood in the busy seasons. He is also remembered as rather a care-free driver of a touring car for many years. Finally Ole met and married Sandra Nykenen, who had recently arrived from Finland. Sandra spoke no English, and Ole spoke no Fin, so it was Ole's job to teach Sandra English.

Sandra was born in Finland, and was just a young bride of a few months when her mother, father, and husband were killed in a revolution there in Finland. Shortly after this, Sandra came to Canada to an old friend, Mrs. Solonen of the Benalto district. Here she stayed for a time until getting a job working with another lady in a railway cook-car. Ole and Sandra were married in the early thirties, and farmed for some time in the district. They finally moved to the Centerville district where they bought a farm. Everything was going nicely for them when Ole passed away suddenly of a heart attack in the

fall of the year. Again Sandra was left alone, remaining on the farm. Some time later, a widower, Mr. Gaetz, of that same district and she were married. Sandra now enjoyed a new home, until the passing of Mr. Gaetz. It was at this point that Sandra moved to Sylvan Lake, where she lived in retirement until her passing in about 1974.

JOHN AND ANNA JONES

The Jones with three children, Margaret, John and Joseph came to Alberta, from Baltimore, Maryland, where John was a tailor, in the spring of 1903. They homesteaded N.E. 14-37-3-W5, on May 23, 1903, later purchased S.W. 18-37-2-W5. They stayed with the Fritz Giselman family while their living quarters were being built.

Mrs. Jones became a good gardener, raising a large variety of vegetables, beautiful flowers, rhubarb and different kinds of berries. She sold vegetables to Dick Schouton who came around to buy garden produce, which was delivered to the mines at Nordegg. They farmed in the Happy Hill district until their deaths. John in July 1942 and Anna in November 1945, they are buried in Sylvan Lake cemetery. **John Paul** lived in California and died in 1950. **Joseph** farmed in Craig district and passed away in 1941. In 1926 **Margaret**, married Theodore Black of Altario, Alberta. After repeated crop failures there because of drought, they moved to Happy Hill in 1936 and took over the Jones farm. They had one son Theodore Jr. (Ted) who married Myrna Giselman. They have a daughter Melanie.

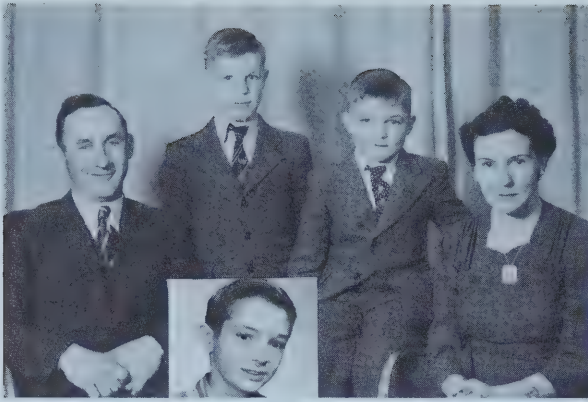
Margaret Black passed away March 1960 and is buried in Alto Reste Cemetery in Red Deer. Mr. Black remained on the farm for two years. He is now retired and living in Connecticut.

It is interesting to note that in 1903, the Giselman family shared their home with the John Jones family. It is not likely they ever thought that the Jones' grandson would marry the Giselmans granddaughter. Ted and Myrna are living on the family farm.

L. F. KATHOL

L. F. (Louis) Kathol arrived in the district, in the fall of 1933, from Rockyford, Alberta, having bought the S.E. 5-38-2-W5 from Mrs. Sullivan. With the help of a friend, he built a small granary and as there were no buildings on the place slept in it. One morning, everything was covered with snow. They got a house and barn started and then returned to Rockyford for the winter. In the spring of 1934, he returned, driving a team and wagon from Rockyford. The trip took three days. Anne, his wife came by car. For awhile he owned, S.E. 32-37-2-W5, but sold that and bought N.E. 5-38-2-W5. There were only 80 acres broken when he first arrived. Louis recalls that they received much help and friendly visits from their neighbors, the John Hillman's, Dave and Maggie Robertson, Weckers and Wells, being the closest.

Louis recalls that the roads always seemed blocked with snow in the winter and usually he put his car up on blocks and left it till spring. He says that just before Christmas 1942, Walter Hanna and Lloyd Wells, feeling sorry for us, pulled Lloyd's truck to our place with Walter's tractor, so that we could get out before Christmas. I was so pleased to see them, I gave them a Christ-



Louis, Annie, Bernard, Howard, Conrad Kathol.

mas drink and I must have given them too big a one, as they completely ruined the trail on the way home. It was unusable all winter. He also recalls, Bob Bramall and he met John Staniforth, at the Island Ranch one day in the winter of 1943 and Bob said the road was so bad that even the coyotes weren't using it.

Louis was Stampede Manager, at Benalto, for 13 years and was also active in curling.

The Kathol's have three children: **Bernard**, was born September 4, 1935 in the Innisfail hospital. He took his schooling at Evarts, (and when he took his grade nine, he had Queenie Ford, the late Mrs. Bill Staniforth), as his teacher. That year, he received the Governor General's Medal. He then went to Red Deer, where he graduated from high school. He enrolled at the University of Alberta, graduating as a Civil Engineer in 1959. He works as an engineer for the Department of Highways. His present position is Construction Operating Engineer. In 1957, Bernard married an Edmonton girl, Eldean Pelkie and they live at St. Albert. They have three boys and two girls and they adopted another little girl. In 1976, their oldest daughter, Jeananne, enrolled on a scholarship at Yale University. **Howard**, was born April 19, 1938 in Red Deer. He attended rural school at Evarts and graduated from High school in Red Deer. He attended the Provincial Institute of Technology and Art, at Calgary, where he took Agricultural Mechanics. He became a steam engineer and after several years at this work, decided to go back to farming. He lives on the former Gus Wolti's farm in the Kuusamo district. Howard, is secretary-manager of Sylvan Cattle Company, a herd of Registered Simmental Cattle, which was formed in 1969. Howard, married May Crisp, of Monitor, Alberta in 1962. They have a family of two girls and three boys. **Conrad**, was born October 26, 1949, in the Eckville hospital. He took part of his schooling at Evarts until the school closed and then went to Benalto. He graduated from high school in Red Deer. He then attended the University of Alberta and graduated as a Civil Engineer. Conrad and another engineer operate their own Consulting Engineer Firm called Quarternary Geophysics Sciences Limited. He married, Cheryl Walters, from Calgary, in 1973. They reside in St. Albert.

In 1962, Kathol's sold their farm and moved to Red Deer, Alberta, where they still reside.

WINNIFRED KENNINGS — written by Winnifred McAllister

The Evarts school was my first teaching experience from February to June 30, 1918. I went out by train from Red Deer to Benalto Siding. This was a mixed train, one or two passenger coaches and the remainder was freight cars. At that time, there was only a box car on the Benalto Siding, no station and I believe there was no agent. The mail, passengers and other articles were taken to Evarts Post Office by stage. The driver at that time was James Frew. He brought my trunk down. Mr. Leslie B. Walker, the secretary of Evarts school district, met me at the train and took me to the home of Mrs. Janet Braton. I was already acquainted with Mrs. Braton and enjoyed my stay there with her.

It was quite cold that winter and I lit the fire in the school each morning. At that time it was usual for one of the pupils to do this, but none of them lived nearby. I remember several mornings the temperature was —30 degrees fahrenheit inside the building. It was the old school building, which was later moved and used for a community hall and replaced by a more modern building.

That spring the government required the registration of all persons. The teachers of the rural schools took care of the registrations in their districts. It was a long day from 7:00 A.M. to 10:00 P.M.

Some of my pupils that I remember were: Mabel Loken — the Holsworths, William, Ethel and Clara — the Frews, David and John — the Eymundsons, Bjarni, Asy and Christopher — the Johnsons, Hilda and Henry and Kenneth Jackson.

JOHN HAROLD KILLICK

Mr. Killick arrived in Evarts in June, 1903. He was impressed with the activity in the busy little town. Already there were two stores, a post office, blacksmith shop and stopping house. He remembered the roads being very bad, especially after a rainy spell. Mr. Killick's friends, Jack and Grant Edwards, opened a second store at Evarts, in 1904, and he assisted them. Later in 1905, Mr. Killick bought the Edwards business.

At this time, the government had finished building a bridge across the Medicine River, a mile or so north of the present town of Eckville and his attention was moved to this location. A man by the name of Mr. Eckford persuaded him to build a store and apply for a post office there. This he did, staying in business there for a short time. The post office was named after Mr. Eckford, changing it slightly to Eckville, being that he was the first owner of the land where the post office was located.

Ada Belle Brown came from Nova Scotia to Evarts, late in 1903. When the Evarts school opened for the first class, Ada Belle was the first teacher, holding this position for two years. She must have been a very kind and understanding person, as more than one of her former pupils have stated firmly that she was a very nice person and the children all loved her. In the fall of 1905, Miss Brown was given the honor of being the very first teacher at the newly formed school at Bluebell. I believe she had the same honor at Centerville in 1903. Communications had not been too bad between Eckville and Bluebell, as in 1906, Mr. J. A. Killick and Miss Ada Belle Brown were united in marriage. They continued on at their store at Eckville until 1908, when they sold it, and returned to the

store business at Evarts, purchasing it this time from the Smith brothers. The store had evidently been closed for a time as Mr. Killick was heard to explain, that the way they got back in the store business was just pull the boards off the windows, and get back into business. They had the post office as well. The post office at Evarts right then was a bit different, as it was located in the hotel. Mr. Killick now owned the hotel also. He had traded some horses for it, and being it was licensed, Mrs. Killick rather objected to being a part of it. The government objected to the licensed premises also, as a place for the post office, so it was moved to the Killick store. Mr. Killick, a few years ago, related that he remembered the creamery and the Presbyterian church, also a few other buildings at Evarts, which had not been there on his first stay in the lively little town. Also he remembered two or three saw mills west of Evarts, doing a booming business, as by now everyone was in need of building supplies. Some of these mills he remembered belonged to the Clausen brothers, William Joyce and Bannerman brothers. The third store was opened in Evarts by Taylor and Barton and business was quite brisk. We are told by Bernard Killick that his father had the contract for the supplying of staples to the railways camps. He also said that there were many mules used in these camps and supposedly mules are very stubborn and perhaps this was the reason that it was said that there was always a steady stream of mules coming and going from the mule hospital, or the rest haven, whatever you like. Homesteaders were locating in Evergreen, New Hill, Leslieville and west to Rocky Mountain House. It was here that Jack and Gerry Macdonnell opened a store at Pitco (later Hespero). Railroads were being spoken of at this time and surveyors were busy laying the routes for these. We must remember there were no freightway trucks or railways when Mr. Killick was storekeeper at Evarts and so he relied on the many settlers in the area who made a bit of spare money by freighting supplies. Some of the oldtimers, it seems, were freighters. Roads were terrible and the narrow-rimmed wagons cut deep ruts. Four-horse teams were a general practice.

It was in the spring of 1911, after getting news of the switch in plans for the coming railroads, which was not to come through Evarts as anticipated, that Mr. Killick decided to move his stock of merchandise to Rocky Mountain House. This was a tremendous undertaking by horsepower at a cost of one dollar and fifty cents per hundred weight. This move, of course, ended the Killick family's connection with Evarts, and the railroads finished Evarts as a trading centre. Jonas Johnson, one of the freighters for Killicks, was the driver who took the Killick family to Rocky Mountain House and they had to wait on the bank of the river for ice flows to pass before fording. Jonas had been one of the faithful freighters who went once a week to Innisfail for building supplies and groceries for Killicks.

While the Killicks were living in Eckville, their son **Harold** was born. This event happened in Red Deer with Dr. Richard Parsons in attendance. In 1910, a second son, **Bernard**, was born in Evarts and in 1912, another boy **Gordon** arrived. Later **Vera** and **Marjorie** were born while they were living in Rocky Mountain House.

One story is remembered by the family, when they were living at Evarts. It was the event of "Aunt Lizzie



J. H. Killick holding son, Harold, 1908.

Von Hollen's" arrival at Evarts. She had just come from Germany to join her family in Alhambra and without any modern methods of communications in evidence, she spent two days with the Killick family waiting for her relatives to come and pick her up. This was evidently a most enjoyable time, as they used it to advantage in getting acquainted with her, and also spending a great deal of time around the piano, singing and playing many songs. Mentioning the "piano", gives me opportunity to tell that story too.

The Family Piano.

Piano was purchased by J. H. Killick in 1906, as a wedding present to his wife. It was purchased from Brumpton's store in Red Deer and the salesman was Joseph Wright. Piano was an upright "GOURLEY". Piano was transported from Red Deer to Mr. Killicks newly opened store and post office by team and wagon. Mr. Killick named his new location "Eckville" in honor of the late Mr. Eckford on whose land he had built. Piano was moved to Evarts in 1908, where Mr. Killick bought the hotel, paying for it with horses. He reopened his store in Evarts, which he had previously operated before moving to Eckville. The store and post office at Eckville, he sold to Mr. Bruynsrade who was a brother-in-law of the late Charles Snell of Red Deer. Piano remained in Evarts for four years, 1908-1912, when it was again moved to the Tom Gray place west of the Saskatchewan River near the location of the old Hudson's Bay Fort at Rocky Mountain House. It was soon to be moved back across the river to the new site of the town only just located on the homestead of the late H. H. Bertrand. This was the spring of 1913, and here Piano was to remain in Rocky Mountain House for the next eight years until 1921, when it again moved with the Killick family to Victoria, British Columbia. Piano returned to Alberta in 1928, when the Killicks returned to Rocky Mountain House. Since then it has undergone two more moves to Kelowna, British Columbia and finally to the home of Marjorie Killick on Gabriola Island, British Columbia.

Piano was originally purchased for approximately one hundred and twenty dollars and for all its travels and numerous tunings, it still looks and sounds like new. Not a scratch on it's polished mahogany surface.

EARL KLAMMER

Earl and Kay Klammer, moved from New Serepta, to the Evarts district. They bought an acreage formerly owned by Dennis Bramall, in November 1962. Here, Earl farmed on his acreage and did odd-jobs in the neighborhood. Kay was noted for her garden and yard. The Klammers had five children; **Marlene, Yvonne, Terry, Ronald and Sharon**. In 1965, they moved to Red Deer where Earl found employment with Flint Construction. A year or two after moving to Red Deer, Kay passed away from cancer. Earl has since remarried living still in Red Deer with his wife Kathy.

MRS. LAIRD — written by Mrs. Lily (Walker) Watson

Granny Laird, as she was well known, and her daughter **Hattie Wylde Laird**, came to Canada with us in 1906. They stayed on the farm with us for some time, then moved to Evarts.



Four generations, Granny Laird, Mrs. Walker, Hattie and Frieda.

Mr. R. E. (Bob) Lawrence from Nampa, Idaho, bought the hotel in 1907. The hotel had approximately seven bedrooms and Bob Lawrence added seven more. Mr. Lawrence sold the hotel after his wife died in August or September of 1907, leaving four children, three girls and a boy. Aunt Hattie Laird helped to look after the children as they were young. Hattie was married to Bob Lawrence in 1908. They then lived in Red Deer.

Granny Laird moved to Red Deer and lived there until her death on May 21, 1924, at the age of 89 years. While she lived in Evarts, her house was a popular stopping place for her friends and us when we walked down to get the mail.

Note: Mrs. Walker, Granny Laird's daughter will be covered under a separate history.

ROBERT (BOB) LANGER

Bob and his wife Wema purchased the Evarts store from the Tom McNallys, they had been farming prior to this in the Hespero area. They had two children **Myrna and Bobbie**. They sold the store to Henry Ristock and moved to Eckville, where Bob became elevator agent at Searle Grain elevator. Another son, **Glen** was born there.

ROBERT LARRATT — N.W. 12-38-3-5

Mr. Robert Larratt was born in England, May 28, 1886. He was the youngest of a family of eight children. He came to the United States of America with his parents in 1889 and they settled in North Dakota for a period of time before moving to Alberta in 1909. They were at Langdon, Alberta until moving to Innisfail in 1911, to homestead with his father.

Wedding bells rang on March 18, 1914 for Robert and his bride, Miss Catherine Fraser. Catherine had come from Fores, Murryshire, Scotland in 1906, to Halifax, Nova Scotia, and then on to Innisfail in 1910, where she met Robert, more commonly known to his friends as Bob.

In 1927 with a family of five children now, they moved to Leslieville. The move was not made as conveniently as it would be done today. It was all made by horses and wagons. Bob was farming here but also worked in the lumber mills during the winter.

In 1929 they moved to the Diamond Valley area, farming one mile east of the Diamond Valley school where the family completed their education.

Bob was instrumental in the construction of the present Diamond Valley Gospel Church which was pastored by Mrs. Isabel Nester, now Mrs. C. Upshall of Fort McMurray.

A short move was made in 1936 to a farm one and a half miles west of Evarts, where they continued farming and custom threshing. During the depression days, Bob and Catherine helped many travellers with food and lodging. They were always there to lend a helping hand to other families in need.

In November 1944, Bob and Catherine semi-retired and moved to Calgary where Catherine passed away in May, 1950. After a brief illness, Bob passed away in May of 1957.

Dorothy was the eldest in the Larratt family. She is living in Claresholm, Alberta where she works in the hospital.

Cleveland married Juanita Scott of Rocky Mountain House. She lost her life in a fire, Christmas, 1946. They had one son Gary. Cleveland has remarried and resides in Calgary.

Fraser married Dulcie Phillips, daughter of Bill Phillips of Bingley, Alberta. They reside in Calgary where he works for Maccosham Moving. They have a family of six — Lorraine, Dennis, Roger, Sharon, Bill and Twila.

Arthur married Vivian Dorrett of Blackie, Alberta. They reside in Edmonton and have a family of four — Gordon, Marilyn, Sandra, and Brian. Arthur served five years overseas in the Canadian Army.

Viola married Bob Lamb of Holden, Alberta who also served five years overseas in the Canadian Army. They have a family of three — Edward, Edna, and

Melvin. Bob works for Gulf Oil and they reside in Calgary.

BERTRAM CLIFFORD AND JEAN LEARNED AND FAMILY

September of 1926, Clifford and Jean and their family came to live in the hamlet of Evarts. Mrs. Jean Learned had been engaged as teacher of the Evarts school. For the next three years they took an active interest in the Evarts community.

Mrs. Learned had received her teacher training and experience in her native land, Scotland. Not only the importance of the three "R's" was stressed in her classroom but interest was created in art and singing. Through her gentle manner pupils were encouraged to use any small talent they showed. The result was that in years later, the spark that was kindled, continued in these pupils, to become a pleasurable and rewarding means of expression.

Since the Learned's lived in the teacherage located on the school grounds, Mr. Learned, when home, was the highlight of a noon hour when he would play ball with the pupils. They eagerly learned from him the correct way to bat, catch and throw, for he was a keen sportsman.

Here, their daughter, Mary received the first three years of her primary education and enjoyed friendship of her mother's pupils.

To participants and spectators, the main event of the year was the Christmas concert. It took many hours of overtime on Mrs. Learned's part to produce a two-hour program of such variety, consisting of choruses, drills, dialogues, recitations, Nativity Scene, pantomimes and folk dances. But it was a happy event for the children and many showed remarkable talent.

At the end of June 1929, the pupils of Evarts said a reluctant good-bye to their understanding teacher and her family, for the Learned's were returning to their farm in the Kuusamo district.

When not visiting his daughter, **Mary** in Denver, Colorado, or son, **Hugh** and youngest daughter, **Margaret** in Alaska, Mr. Learned resides in Sylvan Manor, Sylvan Lake, Mrs. Jean Learned passed away a number of years ago but her memory remains in the minds and hearts of many of her Evarts pupils.

GEORGE LEE FAMILY — N.W. ¼ 28-37-2-W. 5

George Lee was born in Yorkshire, England, in September, 1882. He immigrated to Canada in 1906, working in Bolton, Ontario for two years, before settling at Hespero, farming there for some years. Mr. Lee went to Rochester, United States, and stayed two years before returning to Hespero.

Mrs. Lee (Arla Anderson) was born in Le Grand, Iowa, United States, but came to Red Deer in October, 1907, when her mother, two brothers and one sister travelled by train to join Mr. Anderson who had come to Alberta in 1906. The first year the Anderson family lived in a small shack by the river, but used a large tent as a home the following summer. Next winter Mr. and Mrs. Anderson used one of two houses owned by Mr. Cronquist. In the spring of 1909, the Anderson's moved to Pitcox (Hespero), where Mr. Anderson had filed on a homestead. The trip from Red Deer with a team and wagon was an all day journey. The house on the



Mr. and Mrs. George Lee, Nita, Charlie, Gerty.

homestead was built of tamarack poles and chinked with moss. Garter snakes were found by the thousands and any opening was soon discovered by these reptiles. Prairie fires swept the country each spring, but as settlers moved in clearing land, fires were not so numerous. Mrs. Lee, did not attend school, until she was eleven. There were too few children in this area to establish a school.

Mr. and Mrs. Lee were married September, 1922, and lived in the Hespero district until 1926, when they moved to Evarts to a farm near where the Lee's now live. This farm was mostly clear of brush far different from the farm they had at Hespero. There were no buildings on this farm so a small house had to be built immediately. Mrs. Lee saw her first dust storm in the thirties "the dust turning day into night and covering everything indoors with a quarter inch of dust." After seven years on this farm, the Lees moved to the farm where they now live. The house they occupy was moved from Arthur Staniforth's. Mr. Lee threshed with Arthur Staniforth's outfit from the first year until combines were used.

The three children; **Gertrude**, **Juanita** and **Charles** attended New Centerville school. Gertrude works in a bank in Calgary, Alberta. Juanita (Mrs. E. Viitala) is a Nursing Aide at Deerhome, Red Deer, Alberta. Charles farms at home.

Neighbors of the Lees, when they first came to Evarts were; the John Olsons, Tom Munros, G. Bjornsons and John Hillmans.

Mr. and Mrs. Lee celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary September 6, 1974 and also Mr. Lee's 90th birthday the same day.

PETE LEKVOLD

The Lekvold family were of Scandinavian descent, they came to the district in the early 1900's from South Dakota and homesteaded N.W. 18-38-2-W5 and S.E. 24-38-3-W5 on November 5th, 1902, also later owned N.W. 24-38-3-W5. They lived north of Evarts along the Medicine River on N.W. 18. Pete was involved with forming the first school district and was in attendance at the

Evarts School Board meeting and was a voter present for bonding the right to build a school. Two of their children **Minnie** and **Ettie** attended the first class in 1903. Before the bridge was made across the river, Pete had a boat and charged a fee of 25 cents to cross the river. He was a keen trapper and some oldtimers recall him having a "mean" dog. His brother, Martin owned S.W. 20-38-3-W5.

WILLIAM EDWARD LIDDELL — N.W. 9-38-2-W. 5

W. E. Liddell was born in Westmount, Quebec. He farmed there and later at Guernsey, Saskatchewan, before coming to the Evarts district. His sister, Mrs. W. Robertson, who with her husband and family, had come to this area earlier, had advised him of a quarter of land for sale. This land he subsequently bought from Seivert Lindelin, who had homesteaded around 1900. Ed. Mannerfeldt broke some of this quarter with his team of oxen. Later Mrs. Liddell and sister Annie, joined Mr. Liddell. A brother Leslie, had been killed in the First World War.

The first house built by himself was a small two room shack, but in 1935, Mr. J. Hillman rebuilt and added to this. The same house is on the farm at present. Neighbors were John Sjare, Arthur Staniforth, MacMillan Brothers and Ed. Mannerfeldt. John Johnson owned the first steam engine in the district. Ed Liddell set up a definite program of rotation on his farm which was unique. In 1939, Ed, married Laura Todd, from Provost. Her son **Alvin** attended the Evarts school. Alvin married Lucille Coulombe, of Edmonton and they have four of a family. Alvin is assistant manager of R. Angus Alberta Limited, in used equipment in Edmonton.

When the telephone was installed with central at Evarts, Ed was one of the early secretary-treasurers. In recalling early events, Ed, spoke of the extremely cold winter of 1924-25. Temperatures reached 60 degrees below fahrenheit. Solidly packed snow drifts made travel impossible on the roads, so roads were made through the fields.

Mr. and Mrs. Liddell retired to Red Deer in 1962. Mr. Liddell passed away, November 1st, 1972 and was buried in the Red Deer cemetery. Mrs. Liddell passed away, March 8th, 1974 and is buried in the Provost cemetery, beside her first husband and son Wilfred, who passed away about the age of six.

HISTORY OF THE LIGHTBOWNS

John James Lightbown with his wife, three sons and one daughter left England in the spring of 1901, coming to Brandon, Manitoba, living there for two years and then on to Diamond Valley in June, 1903. The members of the family were David, Jim, Molly and Max. Means of travel from Brandon, via Red Deer to Diamond Valley was by team and wagon. Mother passed away in 1924, and Dad passed on in 1932.

Most of the valley was covered with willows and poplars with no roads. The road at that time from Evarts, after crossing the Medicine River, went south for about two miles and turned west going through Forhan's homestead, S.E. 2-38-3-W. 5, coming out at Billy Woof's place. It then went across Section three to Gingras (which was first homesteaded by Frank Victor, who later went back to the United States). Mr. Victor was the man who named Diamond Valley, having signed the hotel

register in Innisfail as place of residence. The trail went west here running just south of the school across section eight and across the creek and due west to Catons. Our trail branched off north-west after leaving the school.

The first winter we lived in a tent and nearly froze. The house was built the following summer of rough lumber and I mean rough. The few neighbors to the west were Glen Caton and George Shields. To the north Victor Medin, Jonas Johnson and Alex Stewart. Lewis Olsen was east at the location of the Diamond Valley cemetery.

Diamond Valley School was built in 1910. None of the Lightbowns family attended school there. The first teacher was Miss Pendergast. A man teacher Mr. Wilson, who was killed in the First War and Miss Johanna Bertheson from east of Evarts. These taught from 1910-1915. We boarded three teachers; Wilson of Diamond Valley, Miss Schultz of Gaetz in 1912 and Miss Bertheson in 1913. Jim was secretary of the Diamond Valley school for some time.

Entertainment was somewhat limited. Dave played the piano, Jim the violin and Max sang for early entertainment at the school house.

The winter of 1906 was exceptionally cold and long with heavy snow. A lot of cattle froze to death. From 1902-1918, we were a local improvement district. Taxes for some years was three dollars, one dollar cash and two dollars worth of work, later going up to eight dollars with two dollars cash and six dollars work, until a municipality was formed. A lot of work was volunteered on roads just to make it passable for ones own use.

Dad bought the half of section five from Matt Leggate in 1911 and farmed there for several years. The D. J. Lightbown homestead was S.W. 16-38-3-W.5; David's homestead was S.W. 16-38-3-W.5; Jim's was N.W. 4-38-3-W.5 and Max's was N.W. 5-38-3-W.5.

Molly lives in North Dakota. Max, passed away in March, 1971 in Sylvan Lake; David, of Abbotsford, British Columbia, retired farmer; Jim, passed away in August, 1971 at Langley, British Columbia; **David** married Mercelline Morgeau on December, 1913, their family consists of four sons and two daughters. Doris and John, Vancouver; Jim, Surrey, British Columbia; Eileen, deceased; Bill of Vancouver and Alex of Richmond, British Columbia; **Jim** married Josephene Morgeau in 1920. They have five daughters; Florence at Mission, Marie in Vancouver, Gloria in Coquitlam, all of British Columbia. Velma in Edmonton, Alberta and Sarah at Victoria, British Columbia. **Molly** married Ben Early in 1907. They have one son David, of Larson, North Dakota. **Max** married Viola Wylie in 1916. Their family are; Edward of Sylvan Lake; Lillian, Robert and David of Eckville; Darlene of Devon, all in Alberta. Mrs. Max Lightbown spends most of her time in Abbotsford, British Columbia. Two of David's sons served as pilots overseas and Max's sons, Edward served in the army in the last war.

SEIVERT LINDELIN

It is not known where Seivert Lindelin came from, or where he went after leaving Evarts, but while here, Seivert made his mark in the history of Evarts, along with all the other pioneers. Arriving in the district at the turn of the century, Seivert was known as a nice fellow,

good neighbor, and a heart of gold. He served on the first Evarts School Board as chairman and was also the person who named the municipality "Golden West". He also was on the Council for the "Improvement District" for several years.

Seivert was a bachelor in the true sense of the word. He prided himself in not cleaning up or washing, and his little shanty bore evidence of this. A sliding window was a convenience to the shanty, as the table was directly under the window, and any left overs, empty cans, or anything unsavory for the dog, went out the window. The pile outside grew in size, as the years went by. Seivert was never plagued with dishwashing, as his dog ate after him and did the honors. Laundry was no problem either. The low shanty roof proved to be a convenience in placing laundry there. The rains came and washed it and the sun dried it out. Of course, this was only a summer convenience.

There were mischievous tendencies in Seivert also. He had a huge, beautiful tom-cat, with an almost frightening kind of meow. Seivert would hold this cat on his knees and pet him. After the telephone line was installed in Evarts, Seivert of course, had one too, but we have to remember it was a party line, and "rubbering" seemed to be most evident. On more than one occasion, the conversation was interrupted with a hideous meow, as Seivert got a great deal of enjoyment out of pinching his cat's tail and having the consequences break into the conversation.

Being a well-educated man, Seivert was asked to write letters, do legal matters and the like for neighbors less fortunate than himself. He was a great reader also.

Erick Mannerfeldt with three horses and an ox, helped Seivert to break some of his land which was the N.W. 9-38-2-W5. Mr. Lindelin was also owner of an ox-team.

Mr. Alf Watkins, living just east of Evarts, remembers as a little boy, Seivert stopping at their place on his way to Evarts and when leaving, asked Alf if he wanted a ride with him. Of course he did, and quickly jumped up on the reach, the next jump to be beside Seivert. This startled the oxen, causing a run-away. Alf hung on for dear life, dangling on the reach, while the oxen made a wild trip across the Evarts Flats. What stopped this run-away, was the fact that one ox was slower than the other and so eventually this brought them to a halt.

After some years of homesteading, Seivert sold his land to Mr. Ed Liddel, who came from Quebec, with his mother and sister. It is not known where Seivert went after this, but we hope he enjoyed life at his new destination, as much as he did while living at Evarts.

It has been drawn to my attention that Seivert was Swedish. Later, after leaving Evarts, he was seen by a former acquaintance, Tom Shacklock, Marianne, on the streets of Chicago, in the late 1940's.

SWAN AND ALLEN LINDGREN

These two brothers, came to the district shortly after the turn of the century, to settle on S.W. 6-38-2-W5. They started a cattle ranch.

MARTIN LOKEN — written by Clara (Loken) Sjare

Martin Loken and his wife Mary left Norway in 1896. The sea voyage took five weeks. They were accompanied by Martin's mother Kari Loken, her foster



Kari Loken.

daughter Julia and his brother Ed. They settled in Loyal Wisconsin, for three years, moving then to Canada with a small daughter, **Clara**. In 1899, they arrived at Burnt Lake, where they spent the first winter looking after stock for a homesteader, Axel Nelson occupied his house while he spent the winter logging.

In the spring they filed on a homestead east of the Medicine River. Martin filed on the S.W., Ed on the N.E., and their mother Kari, on the N.W. of section 16-38-2-5. The date was February 12, 1900. A few years later, Martin purchased the west of section 15, later selling the south quarter to Ed Mannerfeldt. The north quarter is still owned by their youngest daughter Anelle. In 1901, they built a house on the N.E. of 16. It was constructed of hand hewn logs and stood until 1966, when it was burned down.

A second daughter, **Mabel**, was born in the fall of 1903. Having cleared land, the first threshing was done with a steam outfit owned by Pete Lekvold in the fall of 1903. Pete lived west of the river. The Loken brothers shipped a carload of cattle and horses. Most of these horses took Swamp Fever, due to the climate changes and died. The farming was then done for a time with oxen.

In 1906, due to ill health, Ed Loken, his mother and Julie, moved to British Columbia. Their land was purchased by Martin Loken and an auction sale was held. The auctioneer was Jack Howe and it was the first sale to be held in the district. During these years, the nearest source of supplies and mail was Red Deer, some twenty miles away. Martin often made the trip on foot, especially if his and his mother's pipe tobacco ran low.



The Loken home. L. to R. — Ed. Mannerfeldt, Knut Hallingstead, Mr. and Mrs. Loken, Annelle, Mabel and Clara.

Later a Post Office and store was built in Evarts and Martin bought the first sack of flour. The mail came by stage from Red Deer. The driver was Bert Foster. After the school was built in 1903, and opened in 1904, Martin was a member of the school board for many years. At this time Seivert Lindelin was road councilor for the district. It was called Improvement District Number Sixteen. When it was changed to a Municipal District, it was he who suggested the name Municipal District of the Golden West. This name remained until it became the County of Red Deer.

Mary Loken, in those early years went through all the hardships of pioneer women. She made do with what she had and baked, washed and mended for many bachelor neighbors. She often told of churning butter for a survey crew when the survey was being made to build a railroad through Evarts. The price was five cents a pound. This survey was never used. Her social life consisted of attending church services on Sunday, either in their home, or at the neighbors. Her dearest friend was Marianne Bertheusen, who lived three miles east. They walked to visit one another through thick woods with no roads. There were many Indian encampments along the way.

Their third daughter **Anelle**, was born in 1915. Martin and Mary retired from the farm in 1924 to Sylvan Lake, where they built a new home. Martin had been on the Municipal Council for several years and was elected to the Village of Sylvan Lake Town Council soon after retiring. Martin passed away in 1930 and Mary in 1947.

The only surviving daughter, Anelle, now resides in Calgary. She attended school in Sylvan Lake and Red Deer. In 1940, she married Elmer Anderson of Benalto. He was employed by the Wheat Pool and they moved to Elspeth in 1943. They were transferred to Benalto,



Ed and Martin Loken.

Sylvan Lake and Millet during the next number of years. In 1972, Elmer retired from the Wheat Pool and they moved to Calgary from Millet. Their son Eldon and his wife also reside in Calgary.

Note:

Clara Sjare passed away in 1971.

Mabel Owen passed away in 1972.

Anelle Anderson passed away in 1976.

LOWEN FAMILY — N.E. 21-38-2-W. 5

In the late fall of 1952 Pat and Amy Lowen, with children **Marion**, **Jimmy** and **Craig**, moved from Brandon, Manitoba to the Holsworth place on the above location. This land was purchased from Mr. Harold Tennant through the Veterans Land Act plan.

The big sturdy old house had been built by Holsworths in 1916, a remake from timber that previously was erected as the Evarts restaurant. By 1952 it was due for renovation. Pat enlarged the cellar under the house and put in a good cement basement and furnace. He also changed doors, windows and put on a new roof and siding, put in full plumbing, built new cupboards and redecorated. Hours of scraping kalsamine off the kitchen ceiling bared a fine v-joint construction with a good quality coat of cream paint which has been applied by Edna (Holsworth) Mannerfeldt as a teenager.

Pat cleared the thirty acres of brush. His crop on the new breaking at the south end of the quarter was oats that yielded over one-hundred bushels per acre. His excellent farming practices resulted in good crops of flax seed, rape seed or barley. His innovative genius was put to good use in fixing farm machinery and in welding. One of his masterpieces was a homemade swather with left-handed action.

As for many others, one of Pat's main outings was a weekly trip to Sim's Auction Mart, where wits were sharp and deals were fast. He there met many of the neighbors for short friendly visits in the midst of endless topics for discussion.

In 1973 he sold the farm to the Playfair family, and he moved to British Columbia.

The Lowen children benefitted from the very fine rural education which was the good fortune of those attending Benalto school. In 1961 **Marion** won the Benalto scholarship, for highest marks in grade nine. The following year, **Jim** won the same award. Marion went on to become an X-ray technician. Jim got his B.A. from the University of Alberta. **Craig** got his B.Sc. from the University of Alberta also, and went into computer programming. Jim went to work on the railroad.

Currently Jim is a locomotive engineer operating his train out of Jasper, Alberta. Craig and his wife Sheila, a pharmacist, work in Edmonton. They have two children. Marion married Dan Murphy. They have two children. They live in Fort McMurray.

For several years Amy taught school near Red Deer, or in that city. In 1968, she got her present teaching position in Maple Ridge, British Columbia, where she and Pat have a big house and acreage.

Lowens carry with them forever positive impressions of the fine Evarts community and kindly neighbors they enjoyed for twenty years in the fading era of trusting sons of pioneers, many of whose doors were seldom locked.

THE ELMER LOYEK FAMILY — by Beverley Loyek, Section 6-38-2-5

My husband and I, and our family of three; **Lori**, **Janell**, and **Dwayne**, arrived in the Evarts district on June 29, 1973. We bought the farm known to many as the "Island Ranch". My husband was born in Rimbey, and had lived in Bluffton and Rimbey area all his life. I was born and raised at Comox, on Vancouver Island, and took my teacher training at Victoria University. I taught my first year at Stettler, Alberta. We were married on July 12, 1962. We started married life near Rimbey, where I taught for two years, and then stayed home to raise our family. Elmer was an automotive mechanic for the first few years, and then we had our own garage business for seven years. We sold our garage business in 1969, and went farming full time. My grandparents homesteaded in the Gilby district, and my grandfather used to mention that the Evarts-Benalto districts were real good farming areas. I never thought that one day I would be living in the area. We know we couldn't have moved to a nicer area or community. Our neighbors couldn't be better and everyone is so friendly. As an added bonus, we have such lovely scenery and a farm which has a lot of history. I also enjoy my job as Librarian at the Benalto School, where I have the opportunity to be in a classroom once more.

OLAF (SIMON) LUND S.W. 14-38-3-W5

Simon Lund came from Helingsland, Sweden to Canada in 1904. He came with his family consisting of his father, mother, sister, and one brother. They arrived in Red Deer, where Mr. Cronquist arranged their homestead land at Pitcox, which is now Hespero. They had only to pay \$10.00 to prove up the land, but had to break five acres and buy horses, cows, and pigs within



Simon Lund and niece Alice, 1955.

five years. Simon and his brother Hans would go every winter to Golden, British Columbia, to work in logging camps, cutting logs. Hans and his sister Christina had come from Sweden in 1902 to Minneapolis, where they worked until they had made enough money to send passage for the rest of the family to Canada. It was their money which was used to put down on the homesteads. Simon's father's homestead was where what is now known as the Hartley farm. Hans homesteaded on what is now the location for Skocdopole Construction. Simon's father grew good gardens, and some wheat and oats. During World War I, Simon worked at Winnipeg, coming back to Alberta to the Evarts district in 1922. Simon and Hans then rented land from John Armstrong, near the Isaacson family. Simon and his brother worked together renting more land until Simon moved to the Evarts district in 1928. It was here that Simon and Ed Medin became partners with Hereford cattle. Simon sold out here in 1944 and bought his brother Han's farm staying there for five years, when he moved to Sylvan Lake with the rest of the family. It was during the years following, that Simon was able to make two trips back to Sweden. The second trip was made in 1961. It had been fifty years since he had been in Sweden, and I suppose there were many changes to note. Simon Lund passed away in 1963.

H. MADDISON

In the early 1920's the Maddison family came to Evarts, purchasing the store and post office from J. H. Robinson. The Maddisons had a son **Horace** and a daughter **Ruth**. Horace had a cream haul route and travelled many miles picking up the produce and taking it to Sylvan Lake creamery. Ruth married a doctor. The Maddisons suffered tragedy when their store burnt down on October 4, 1922. They did not rebuild. We are sorry there is not more history available on these people.

CARL EDWIN MANNERFELDT — S.E. 16-38-2-W5

Carl Edwin Mannerfeldt was the second son of Svend and Charlotte Johansen. He was born on April 19, 1894 in Sweden. It was at the turn of the century, that his father, a miller, suddenly passed away, leaving his wife and four children, John, Ragnar, Edwin and Freda. Charlotte found it very hard to support her family in Sweden, and after much thought, she left the children with friends and relatives, and sailed for Canada from Stockholm in 1903. Arriving with friends by train in Red Deer, and on to Burnt Lake, Charlotte stayed on with her friends the Anderson's for six months. Shortly after her arrival, she became re-acquainted with a bachelor, Erick Mannerfeldt from the Evarts district. She had known him from her home-town of Nisterhult, and soon accepted his hand in marriage.

Ed's recollections of his childhood were never mentioned too often, but one story he did tell which happened while staying at his uncle's home in Sweden. Steep rocks surrounded the mill there. Ed and his fellow playmates borrowed little handmade brooms from the house and rode down the smooth rocks on them. The little brooms often broke up before reaching the bottom, and these were the times their trousers needed mending when they reached the bottom. He also remembered one day when the children had been left to their own devices for a time,

and they took the old gun from the house, and proceeded to load it with gun-powder. This was done generously, and when it was time to shoot the gun, no one was brave enough to do so, so they tied it to a tree, with a string to the trigger. I can imagine they held their ears, as they fired it. When the smoke cleared, they all agreed they were in trouble, as the gun had fallen in pieces with the explosion.

Shortly after Ed's mother had gone to Canada, his brother John was lost at sea. He was 15 years old, and had sailed on a fishing boat as cabin boy, never to be heard of again, and was presumed dead. To add to the dilemma, the children were given the news that they were to go to Canada, to be re-united with their mother. Freda was to have gone too, but the aunt who had been caring for her, found nothing but excuses for her not to go at this time. Ragnar and Ed's identical carpet bags were packed with a few personal belongings, and so began their endless trip to Evarts in 1906. This trip, to Ragnar and Ed, was unforgettable. Ed often recalled the rough water the old boat plowed through, often washing the lower deck with water, also mentioning the foam that collected on the sides of the boat. Finally they docked at Montreal, and somehow got on a train headed west. It was slow moving, and the boys were having trouble as they spoke no English. One amusing thing for them as they crossed the prairies were the little gophers that appeared to be racing the train, and then stop and stand straight up and whistle at them. Arrival at Red Deer, was greeted by their mother, who had been waiting for ten days, meeting every train from the south. Communications in 1906 were not good, and so it had been necessary to guess and calculate as to the boy's arrival. I suppose it is not necessary to say there was plenty to talk about on the buggy-ride to Evarts, all in the Swedish language, as Mrs. (Johansen) Mannerfeldt had difficulty with English too. Needless to say there was much consternation, when Freda did not arrive with the boys. Erick Mannerfeldt lost no time in adopting the boys legally, and so now with a new home-land, language and home, they had a new father as well.



Ed and Edna Mannerfeldt.

The Mannerfeldt's still kept in contact with the Burnt Lake district, by going to church there and visiting friends. It was natural they favored Burnt Lake, as that is where all the Swedish people had settled. Ed and his brother Ragnar, were sent regularly to a neighbor girl, Abbie Watkins, who helped them with the fundamentals of the English language. It was in the fall of the year, and school was in session, so they started to school at Evarts. It was not a happy experience. Ed was disgusted, as he was in grade eight arithmetic and grade one reading. A few months of schooling was the sum total of the boy's education in Canada.

Ed often spoke of the times later, when he freighted supplies to the railroad camps when the railways were being constructed near the Evarts area. He looked forward to being in the camps, as there was always such a feast laid out of food. He was situated in a good spot for freighting, as he could make every move count. It took one day from the farm to go west and load his lumber. He stayed overnight at the lumber camp, returning to the farm the next day. The next day saw Ed in Red Deer and loaded for the return trip home the following day. He hauled supplies to the railway camps, and also for the Killick store at Evarts.

One day a week was reserved for custom grain grinding at the Mannerfeldt's which was done for several neighbors every week. A rather different method was used then, as it was done with a stationary engine with one cylinder, and water-cooled. The threshing machine the Mannerfeldts had, was one of the early types, where it was necessary for one man to be handed the sheaf and we would have to cut the band, and feed it into the machine by hand. It also required a man at the back end as well, to keep the straw moved away with a pitch-fork. They only did their own threshing, and perhaps one other neighbor. This machine was later sold to a family in Evergreen.

In December, 1920, Ed married Sarah Edna Holsworth of the Benalto district. Here it might be mentioned that Edna was given the second bridal shower held in Benalto, Sally Staniforth having the first. Apparently this was just a new custom coming into being at that time. Edna's shower was held at Mrs. Warwicks with Mae Laycock assisting. The gifts were presented in a sail-boat, with a fitting poem read to the bride.

Ed had built a new four-roomed frame house on the above location, and this was their home for many years until they built another home in 1951. It is believed that on their wedding day, the wheels to their buggy were switched. After the wedding at the Holsworth farm, the newly-weds drove home to their new house. Some time later, plans for a wedding dance materialized, and on the same day as the dance, it was necessary for Ed to go to Red Deer to obtain his citizenship, and while at the court-house, became interested in a trial regarding some horse-theft. The trial became so interesting in fact, that he forgot the time, arriving at his own wedding dance late. The bride had already gone to the hall with her family. Everything was fine, after Ed arrived on the scene. Edna and Ed's first dinner guests were Mabel and Knut Hallingstead their nearest neighbors. They often laughed about this evening as poor Ed had to walk three times to his mother's to borrow various things the cook needed.

In 1922, twins, a boy and girl, were born and died a few hours after birth. The little ones were laid to rest at a



Dorothy Mannerfeldt.

private funeral and burial on the farm, by Rev. McKecknie and old friend of the family. In 1923, **Dorothy Rosalind** arrived at home attended by the district mid-wife, Mrs. Braton, and Dr. Sanders from Red Deer.

Ed was foreman of the local work crew, which worked out their taxes by doing road work. He did this for several years. Edna did the book work, keeping track of the hours for everyone. She always enjoyed her housework, handwork and such things as picnics, berry picking excursions and later car-rides. Ed was of a patient nature, enjoying carpentry around the farm, and always worked with a will.

Occasionally church services at Burnt Lake were attended but generally Evarts Presbyterian church was more easily reached. Edna was a member of the Ladies Aid at Evarts, also in later years a member of the Evarts Community club. When a Baptist church was organized in Benalto, they chose to attend there, becoming members when it was first formed.

Farming became a bit easier when horses were replaced by a second-hand John Deere tractor. It was September of 1963, when retirement was soon to become a reality, that Ed passed away suddenly on the farm. Edna remained on the farm for one year, then moved to Sylvan Lake where she still resides.

THOMAS AND GRACIA MASTERS — written by Douglas Masters

In 1903, Thomas and Gracia Masters came from Nova Scotia, to their homestead in the Botrill district, Alberta. As a youth, Thomas served as first mate on the Four-Mast Schooner. He married Gracia LeMont at Sommerville, Nova Scotia. To this union, nine children were born.

In 1907, their eldest son, eighteen year old Parker, was killed when he was pinned beneath the overturned load of logs that he was hauling for the construction of a barn. Further sadness befell the family in the death of their eighteen month old baby daughter, **Lilenor**.

The family moved to Calgary in 1918, and in 1920, a farm NE 19-38-2-5 in the Evarts district, was rented from the late John McBride. From 1920 to 1924, Thomas, Douglas and Carrie attended school at Evarts. They recall when the Evarts Store burnt, for their teacher enlisted the aid of the older pupils to help remove some of

the owner's personal belongings from their residence above the store. All went well until a hurried exit had to be made when the ammunition in the store began to explode. Within fifteen minutes, the store was burned completely to the ground.

In 1923, the Master family experienced a similar hardship, when their home was destroyed by fire. They were all working in the hayfield, when the fire occurred. The only personal possessions they had left, was the clothing they were wearing. A granary became their home. The community came to their help by holding a benefit dance, which was organized by the minister of the Evarts and Benalto districts, Mr. McKecknie.

In the winter, straw had to be hauled from the John Johnson farm. The custom of carrying a gun, enabled them to bring home prairie chicken or partridge for the family meal.

In 1924, the Masters left the Evarts District, eventually residing in Chico, California, U.S.A.

Other members of the family are: **Judson**, married Louise Gates of Evergreen, and now lives in Portland, Oregon. They have a family of three. **Marguerite**, of Calgary, has a family of nine. **Neta**, of Calgary, passed away in 1965, leaving a family of five. **Thomas**, lived in Chico, and had a family of two. An aeroplane accident claimed his life in 1955. **Thelma**, of Carbon, Alberta, has a family of six. **Douglas**, married Helen Molander, of Eckville, and for thirty years, they lived in Chico, but now reside in Lynden, Washington. **Carrie**, lives in Camrose, Alberta, and has one in her family. The four Masters sisters are widowed.

HERMAN MATSON — S.E. 20-38-2-W5

Herman Matson, was born in Finland, but immigrated to the United States at the turn of the century. It is thought that it was Wyoming he first settled in and probably came with some of the other Finnish people who came as a group to this area in about 1902. He sold his homestead to the Tigerstead family, in about 1910. Not too much more is known of Herman Matson, but possibly a couple of amusing tales could be related pertaining to him, which I hope does not lose too much in the translation.

Herman Matson came to Alex Staudinger, one day and said to him, "I've been in a Canadian windmill". Asking for the details Alex got the following story. It seems Herman had gotten into an argument over cattle with a neighbor, and in the course of the argument a so-called reliable witness, a mile away, heard the bang, as Herman wielded a fence rail, supposedly hitting his neighbor. Herman was sentenced to thirty days in jail at Lethbridge, but was not taken into custody immediately. In fact it was two weeks before the police came out to the homestead to collect him. Herman was not found at home, as after getting tired of waiting for his escort, had gone to the shores of Sylvan Lake fishing. The police, on enquiring at the Saha farm where he might be, was told of his whereabouts. He started on his way to the lakeshore, and met Herman coming home. Greetings were exchanged and each went on their way. Herman, of course, did not mention who he was. A day or so later, the police came back and did find Herman at home and so the trip to Lethbridge was made with no further incident. The following day, the prisoners at the jail were put



Herman Matson family.

to work. Herman complained loud and long about the condition of the spade he was given. One remark he made was to the effect that when the guard came to work for him, he would at least give him a new shovel to work with. He then refused to do any more work, whereupon, he was ushered back to the jail and put into a room where a cold breeze was blowing on him. This treatment was the Canadian windmill he referred to. Another man was also getting the same treatment and was suffering, but kept warm by swinging his arms like a Finnish hayman and made the two hour stay more endurable. Herman's stay at the jail was shortened to two weeks, and so he enjoyed himself to no end on the way home to the homestead. He stopped in at Calgary, and started begging at the houses. He got so many shirts and sweaters, that it was a life's supply. Herman made the statement after, that there must have been a lot of rich people in Calgary that could give so many clothes away.

Herman was a colorful character, and spoke with a very high pitched, loud and squeaky voice, always starting a conversation, as soon as he was in sight. This same neighbor, Alex Staudinger, had a team of oxen and a two wheeled cart for them to pull. Herman and Alex decided to go fishing again. The oxen were well trained and had not caused any trouble up to this time. Alex had ropes tied to their horns to guide them, however they became frightened when Herman got into the cart, as they were not used to so much noise. It was a mad circle. The more the oxen ran, the more excited Herman got. The more excited Herman got, the noisier he became and the faster the oxen ran. It took a real run before Alex could persuade this man to keep quiet. Even after that, they referred to this incident as their ride with death.

Herman was different from some people, as when he decided to do something, it had to be done immediately. This proved to save his life, as he was working at Frank, Alberta, the night of the big slide. While he was on shift, that disastrous night, he suddenly decided he must go home to his homestead. His boss tried to talk him into staying until pay-day, and when that failed, asked him to stay the shift. He was determined to go home, and had already reached Macleod, before hearing of the disaster he could have been involved in, had he stayed. In Herman's words, "his pants shivered for some time, when he thought how close he had come to death, as all the men who were working on his shift that night, perished".

Mr. and Mrs. Matson and their six children left the district around 1914 to go to Florida, United States.

They corresponded with some of the district for a time. Shortly after Herman and one of the older girls passed away.

JACK AND LILLIAN McBRIDE

A Mr. Robert Clarke, homesteaded section 19-38-2-W5 prior to 1905 and did only enough work to hold it until Edward McBride, father of Jack and Stuart, bought it from him in 1912, as in investment. Ed McBride had come from Ontario with his mother and father and two brothers in 1885 and started the first hardware store in Calgary, later branching out to Innisfail and Red Deer. A few years later he married Esther Santo who also had come out from Ontario. Ed McBride's father became Calgary's third mayor in 1892. The hardware firm of Marshall Wells came along in 1912, with a substantial offer and the McBrides sold their stores to them.

As the McBrides were involved in other things nothing was done with the farm for several years. Following the war of 1914-1918, Stuart McBride, son of Edward McBride, decided to give farming a try as soon as he was out of the army. He started out from Calgary with a team of horses and a dray that had been used in the hardware business, loaded down with essentials, taking a few days to make the journey, the horses finding the gravel pretty hard going.

However, a summer of flies and trying to break land with reluctant horses eaten up with mosquitos, followed by an extremely cold winter, helped to make Stuart's decision to give up farming, an easy one, ending his farming career. The farm was then rented to a family by the name of Masters for three years. The only building outside of a straw shed and a corral, was a house. This frame farm house was burnt during their tenancy.

By this time, Jack, Stuarts brother, was growing up and in spite of his knowing nothing of farming talked his father into giving him a try, so at seventeen, he found himself with the challenge of turning a raw section of land into a productive farm. The first winter was spent in a tent, with a board floor and sides. His mother and father coming up in the summer to give him a hand. Jack says, if it hadn't been for the hospitality of the Finnish neighbors like the Heikkinens and the Andersons with their Saturday night steam baths and the huge lunches of cake and coffee that followed, he would never have gotten through those first years. Being so keen on getting the farm into production, Jack put everything he had into getting the trees down. With the help of an old Rumely tractor, an encouraging number of acres were gradually coming under cultivation, but the farm really started to progress when Jack asked a seventeen year old stenographer from Calgary, in 1927 to share a granary and the rigors of farming with him. How pleased he was to find she had a farm background. Her father Bruno Krause, having homesteaded in the Poplar Ridge area, later built the Alexander Hotel in Red Deer, now called the Park Hotel. On her mother's side the Snells having homesteaded at Leslieville and built the first stopping place at Old Eckville. They knew Evarts well as it was one of the stopping places on the old trail to Red Deer, the first trips were made by oxen in 1905.

Times were hard with no modern conveniences but neighbors like the Bennetts and Robertsons helped to make it all worth while. Lillian will never forget her first visitors, Mrs. Cameron with Peggy and Alice, coming five miles in a democrat to welcome her to the area.

Along with the depression came the family **Bud** and **Jim**, being born on the farm in 1928 and 1930. Then their daughter **Lou** in 1934 and **Robbie** in 1936.

As the farm became known for its seed grain and cattle etcetra, the McBrides knew they had to have a farm name and what could be more appropriate than "Riverbend", as the Medicine River makes numerous bends as it winds its way through the home section. So "Riverbend" it was.

The first pedigree cattle at the McBride farm was a herd of milking Holsteins. In 1938, after seeing Aberdeen Angus cattle at the Benalto fair, Jack McBride started a herd of registered Angus cattle. (The cattle exhibited at the Benalto fair was a herd owned by Mr. Bill Schuneman of Eckville). A number of the foundation Angus cows were purchased from Mr. Harry Hambly of Ponoka, brother of Ralph Hambly of Evarts.

After the second World War, Jack McBride was instrumental in organizing the first Benalto 4-H beef club and was its club leader. He helped with the 4-H club — for a number of years.

As new land was opened up on the farm, seed grain was produced with such success that Jack McBride was awarded the status of an elite seed grower. The highlight of seed production at Riverbend was when a sample of Tetra Petkus rye, shown by Jack McBride, won the world championship at the 1955 Royal Winter Fair in Toronto.

Because of the desire Jack and Lillian McBride had to better their life in the agricultural field, the National film board produced an hour long film entitled, "Nothing But The Best", giving credit to their success in agriculture. This film was shown on a national C.B.C. television broadcast in 1967. It paid tribute to the McBrides for what they had done to improve agriculture on their farm.

Jack and Lillian McBride retired from farming in 1967 and sold the farms to their oldest son, Bud. Jim, their second oldest son, served in the Canadian Air Force and since that time has had a very successful career in business aviation. Lou, their daughter, married Allen Pedder, a paleologist and lives in Calgary. Robbie, their youngest son, took up commercial aviation. Presently he lives in Fort Simpson, North West Territories and owns a helicopter company.

Some of the employees who have worked on our farm have been: Cecil Chestney, Joe Strobel, Martin Martins, Merle Hillman, Aubrey, Jens Jenson, Tim Albert, Marshall, Bill Laddley, Alf Cartinski, Murrele Steele, Tony Went, Norman Sandy, Jim Bach and David Archibald.

BUD McBRIDE'S FAMILY

Bud McBride is the son of Jack McBride and grandson of E. McBride, original owner of the farm now known as Riverbend Farm, N.W. 19-38-2-W5. Bud was born on this farm and attended school at Evarts, the old Melita, and Benalto schools. During school years Bud was very active in 4-H work and through this he represented Alberta in 1947 at Toronto Royal Winter



Bud McBride on Ed Sullivan Show.



Bud, Susan, Barbara and John McBride.

Fair on a Beef Judging team, and also attended the University of Alberta short courses. He was also active in air cadet training during World War Two.

After schooling, because of his interest in cattle, he spent a number of years working with the better Angus herds in the United States, the main one being the J. C. Penny herd in Missouri. Because of the knowledge earned working with the American herds, better foundation breeding stock was added to the home herd. While in the States, a number of exciting events took place, one which was assisting in presenting a Chicago International prize winning steer on the Ed Sullivan TV show in New York. In 1955 Bud was in charge of the Angus exhibit for a Canadian Exporting Company at the International Livestock Exposition held in the Dominican Republic. During the intervening years Bud, with the assistance of

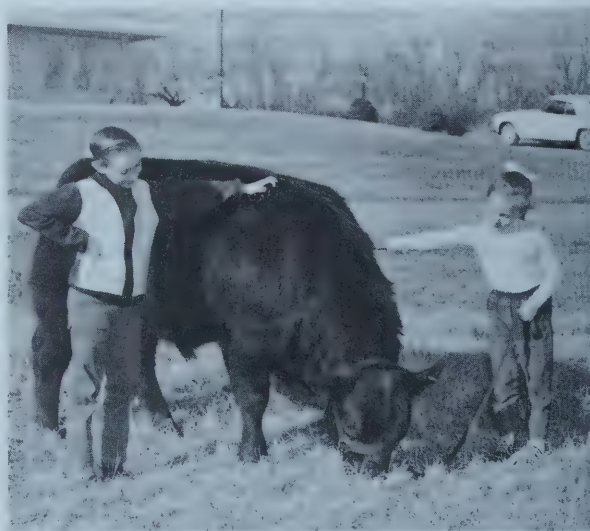
his brother Robby, was successful at a number of major shows across Canada with the family Angus herd.

On January 1st, 1959 Bud married Barbara Clucas, daughter of Jack and Louise Clucas from Edmonton. At that time Barbara had a position with the Edmonton Exhibition Association. She was born in the Hespero district on a farm where her parents farmed for a short time with her grandparents.

Bud and his wife Barbara, continued working with Bud's folks on the farm. They had two children. **John** was born in 1960, and **Susan** was born in 1963. Cattle were still a major part in this farming operation. In 1960 a Denver Grand Champion bull was purchased and used in the Riverbend herd with great success, producing two Calgary Bull Sale Champions. In 1963 the 25th anniversary for Angus cattle at Riverbend was celebrated with an Anniversary sale for the breed.

Because of Bud's interest in cattle and experience he had gained over the years, in 1965 a bull was incorporated into the herd who was later called "Canadian Colossal". Then came the year 1967 when the Riverbend Angus herd was dispersed. At this time it was the largest Angus herd in Canada and again sale records for the breed were established, mainly due to "Canadian Colossal". Since that time this bull has become internationally famous and has been used to the improvement of the Aberdeen Angus breed. Bud's folks retired from the farm in 1967 at which time Bud and his family purchased the farm. Since that time once again a successful Angus herd was established.

In 1970 a decision was made to establish a full-blood Limousin herd. As this is a French breed of cattle from the Limoges area, many trips were made to France by Bud and his wife to select foundation stock for this new herd. The success of this herd has become well-known by the record selling animals and show champions produced at the farm. One of them being the Grand Champion female at the National Western Stock Show in Denver in 1976. Because of the accomplishments of the Riverbend cattle, Bud has been asked to judge many cattle shows across Canada, including the Toronto Winter Fair in



John and Susan McBride.

1972 when it was celebrating its 50th anniversary. Bud has been an Albertan and Canadian Director on both the Aberdeen Angus and Limousin boards.

Bud and Barbara's children, John and Susan have taken an active part in the farming operation. John enjoys the field operations and livestock, Susan enjoys mainly the livestock. As their father was very active in 4-H work, so have John and Susan been involved in 4-H and have been quite successful in it. McBrides have participated as a family in other major livestock shows and events, Susan having been successful in showing horses in both Cross Country Jumping and Western events. John at the recent 1976 Farmfair show in Edmonton had a Limousin-Angus cross steer which he showed to Junior Champion and went on to Grand Champion of the show, making the steer Supreme Champion Market Animal of the Show.

Bud gives credit to the lessons he learned as a young boy going to the Benalto Baptist Sunday School and the Faith he has, for the success of his family and farming career.

J. McDONALD

J. McDonald was another early homesteader of whom almost nothing is known. He settled on N.W. 4-38-2-W5, where after he left it is said the Armstrong brothers squatted in his cabin, but only for a winter season. George Fitch, as a little boy, remembers him as a kindly man who gave George a pocket knife — a much appreciated gift in those days.

GEORGE MCGOWAN — by Mrs. George McGowan

George McGowan, his wife Johanna Karen, and family; **Ardis Karen** born in 1944; **Barbara Alice** in 1946; **Douglas John** in 1946; **Margaret Ann** in 1950; **Stuart George** in 1955; and **Gwen Maxine** in 1958.

After seeding our Frog Lake farm down to wheat in 1945, we moved down to the Elizabeth Smith farm (one section) in early June, and resided on S.E. 6-38-2-5. Our first few nights we slept on straw on the floor, and to make matters worse, the furnace just wouldn't work. The smoke seemed to come into the rooms instead of up the chimney. George made a makeshift table of some partitions in the granary. Our personal effects came a week or ten days later. We planted a garden, but the frost took it in August. In the fall, George went back north for a month to take the crop off. The reason we came to the Evarts district was to get away from the rocks, which we did. We had hoped for a grain farm, but eventually ended up raising cattle, and feeding them. A grain farm has always been our ambition, so in April 1961, we pulled up stakes, and moved to a farm east of the town of Nanton. It is a move we have never regretted. Our neighbors there at Evarts were; L. Kathol, Walter Hanna Sr., and Jr., Robbie Gowans, J. Hillman, C. Hillman, Bob Bramall, the three Staniforths, and C. Stauffer. I believe the power came to our place in 1948-49, and the telephone in 1946. We built a large steel shed in 1949.

Ardis married Larry Stafford. They have two children, and are now ranching in the foothills back of Nanton. Ardis had been teaching for three years at the Parkland Hutterite Colony.

Barbara is married to Lyle Smith. They have one daughter, and three sons. They farm east of Cayley.



George McGowan family.

Douglas married Gloria Roberts of Pincher Creek, and has two girls. Douglas is still with the seismograph, and has his own outfit now. Gloria, and Douglas are in the process of building their own home. He is doing all the work with some help from his Dad.

Margaret is married to Van Greig. They have two girls, and a boy. He has been working for an Oil Company for the past several years. They have a home in Nanton.

Stuart is twenty-one, and works with his brother Douglas on seismograph.

Gwen is finishing Grade twelve.

We sold our farm in 1971, and moved to a small acreage in the outskirts of Nanton, taking life easy. George has a shop where he can do what he pleases, and I have my hobbies. At present I am taking a bit of painting in art classes at Southern Alberta Institute of Technology.

It is quite a switch for us not having cattle anymore, or farming the eleven quarters we once did down here.

JIM MCKINNON

Jim was born in United States, came to the Evarts district and purchased S.W. 24-38-3-W5 and lived there for several years. He was a bachelor. The house on his farm is still standing.

DONALD McLEOD FAMILY

Donald McLeod and his wife Flora, with their children **Jessie, Kenneth, William and Duncan**, arrived in Evarts from Alness, Ross-shire, Scotland May 24, 1924. Donald McLeod and his son Ken worked for John Watson. Bill and Duncan attended school in Evarts. Mrs. McLeod passed away at age 48 years and is buried in the Diamond Valley cemetery. Mr. McLeod lived in Galt, Ontario for many years, becoming blind in his later years I believe he worked with the Parks divisions. He was 92 years old when he passed away.

Donald McLeod and sons came to Ontario in 1928. Duncan died at the age of 16 years. Ken married and had one son, Ross who lives in British Columbia. Ken died in

1972 in Toronto. Bill McLeod is married and living in Windsor. There are no children. Jessie married Stanley Dobson in the Evarts district and will be covered under Dobson.

GEORGE McMILLAN

George, his brother and sister, lived on the S.W. 17-38-2-W. 5. Mr. McMillan sold his land to Mr. Walter Raider, better known as "Missouri" who after farming it for a few years had to turn it back to George, because the taxes couldn't be paid. George then rented it to O. W. Nielsen and then to William Siebel. A son, Wilburt Siebel, built a house up in the timber which was later used as a chicken coop on the Hambly farm.

During the years George rented his land, he lived with Bert Fry in Innisfail. At one time George owned the half section where the Norman Wells farm is located.

In the early years when the Indians (Strawberry tribe) travelled through, they would stop and camp at the top of the hill on the McMillan farm at Evarts. The reason being the vast view of the west country they had. They said they could see for miles in case of intruders. An old fort was found at this spot also, and many arrowheads have been picked up.

George used to tell of how each summer, people would roll barrels of beer from the Evarts hotel to the southwest corner where they lived, and hold an annual picnic.

George raised Shorthorn cattle. He was close friends of the late Bob Cruikshank, and Dave and Sam Braton.

Note: The McMillan section at Evarts was first owned by Mr. Watkins, who later moved to Salmon Arm, British Columbia.

HUGH McMILLAN

Hugh was one of the McMillan brothers who owned section 17-38-2-W5. He lived there with his brother George and sister Margaret. They first lived in a sod house located on S.W. 17-38-2-W5 and later moved to the N.W. quarter, where a house was built. In the early days as the land was being broke up many buffalo heads were turned up, as well as many arrowheads. An old Indian Fort used to be located up from where the fish dam is presently located.

The Terry Hambly family own this farm now and reside there.

TOM McNALLY

The McNally family came from Major, Saskatchewan in the spring of 1946, purchasing the Evarts store and post office from the Stewart family. They had four children; **Donna** is married and living at Veteran. **Bonnie** married Gerald Busch and lives in Saskatchewan. **Jack** McNally was in the services. **Ken** was killed in an automobile accident. The McNallys' sold their business to the Robert (Bob) Langers family and moved to Sylvan Lake. Tom has passed away. Last word from Mrs. McNally, she is back in Saskatchewan and teaching music.

HUGH McNEIL

Hugh McNeil's grandfather came as a small boy to Canada from Northern Ireland. He spelled his name "MacNeill", but somewhere down the line, it got



Mr. and Mrs. Hugh McNeil's 50th Wedding Anniversary.

changed to the shorter spelling. They took up land along the Ottawa River in the early 1800's. It is possible that Sir John Alexander Macdonald brought several families. They worked in lumber camps in the winter and worked on their farms in the summer. Hugh McNeil was born in June, 1867, at Whitlow, Quebec. Hugh had two brothers, David and Philip, and one sister, Margaret. Philip never married, but the others did, and their families are in Quebec and Ontario. Hugh McNeil remembered his grandfather leaving in the morning with a bag of grist (grain) on his shoulders to get ground into flour. Mills were run by water in any streams that were swift enough. He would get home late in the afternoon. Hugh's grandfather helped build the Presbyterian Church at Avoca, Quebec in 1875. The church is still thriving.

Hugh McNeil married Martha Ann Kelly on August 5, 1891. Her people came over from Northern Ireland in 1780's. They, too, settled along the Ottawa River, living on a farm in Pointe au Chene, Quebec. In 1903 they moved with a family of five, to Saskatchewan, and took a homestead at Elbow, shipping their belongings to Davidson by freight, and from there (thirty-six miles) to their homestead, over roads that were only trails, by wagons and horses. The railway went through from Moose Jaw in 1906. They lived at Elbow for eleven years. The five older children were **Margaret (Mrs. J. M. MacDonald)**, **David, Herbert, Philip** (who died in infancy), **Leonard, Wesley, Mae (Mrs. Cal Fletcher)**, **Everett** and **Gilbert** were born after arriving at Elbow.

In 1913, the McNeil's moved from Elbow, Saskatchewan to Alberta and bought land five miles south of Eckville, the North-west quarter 22-38-3-5, where Hugh lived until his passing in June, 1950, at the age of 84. He and his wife are both buried in Eckville cemetery. Gilbert McNeil lived on the farm his father bought for many years.

Leonard McNeil was an Elder and Sunday School Superintendent at Evarts Church for many years. Margaret married J. M. MacDonald, (deceased) who was a teacher at Melita (Benalto). They lived for years in Eckville. Mrs. MacDonald is residing now in Eckville Manor House. David married Ada Reeves of Penhold — his history follows. Herbert (deceased), worked in the smelters in Great Falls, Montana and retired in Seattle.



Mr. and Mrs. Hugh McNeils' 50th Wedding Anniversary.

He was married twice. Leonard (deceased) farmed in the district. After selling his farm to brother Wesley he moved to Abbotsford, British Columbia. He married Jean Fraser, she still resides there. Wesley lives in Eckville, his wife is the former Helen Hainsworth of Leslieville. Mae became Mrs. Cal Fletcher. Her husband was a clerk in the Gerry MacDonnell's store at "Pitcox" (Hespero now) for several years. They both live in Cloverdale, British Columbia. Everett (deceased) married a Miss Elson from Eckville. Gilbert (deceased) was married to Jean McLean, they lived on the family farm, until going to Cloverdale, British Columbia, where Jean still lives.

DAVID JOHN McNEIL

David John McNeil was born at Pointe au Chene, Quebec, October 8, 1894, the eldest son of Hugh and Martha McNeil. He moved with his family to Elbow, Saskatchewan in 1903, and then to Eckville to a farm bought from the Lawrences. On April 25, 1922, David married Ada Reeves from the Penhold area, whose family were early residents of Penhold, coming there in 1887 from England. Ada was born at Penhold on September 23, 1892.

As bride and groom, David and Ada went to live on the Jerry Chapman farm, S.E. 13-38-3-W5, which they rented for five years, later buying it, and farming there until their retirement. This farm, which was one mile west of Evarts, was where their family was born: **D. Lloyd** born December 16, 1922; **Beatrice Ann (Mrs. W. Philips)** born June 14, 1924; and **Ethel Ada (Mrs. F. M. Thornton)** born July 3, 1927.

They travelled by team of horses and wagon over roads that were little more than trails. Their first home was a two-roomed frame shack. It was very cold, but otherwise it kept the weather out. The land was cleared by hand and broken with horses pulling a breaking plow. They had about 100 acres under cultivation, mostly hayland. The rest of the farm was bush. The house was probably built by Jerry Chapman. He had rented his farm to Orr and Beckers, then to Hugh Murphy, and finally to David McNeil.

Mrs. David McNeil belonged to the Ladies Aid, serving as secretary treasurer for a number of years, then as



Ada and David McNeil's wedding 1922, Wilfred Reeves, Mae McNeil.



David McNeil family, 1934. Ada, Beatrice, David, Ethel, Lloyd.



David and Ada McNeil's 50th Wedding Anniversary.

president. She also belonged to the Evarts Community Club. Mr. and Mrs. McNeil were faithful workers for the Evarts Presbyterian Church. David McNeil played the violin for many dances both before and after his marriage, journeying as far as Ridgewood, by horse and buggy with his two brothers, Leonard and Everett.

The McNeils' second home S.W. 13-38-3-W5 was a large frame house built by Mr. Gilles in 1928. During the early years there were some bad dust storms. The blizzard March 15, 1951 was one of the worst storms. The snow drifts were so high the cars could not be seen over the tops of them. There was only a one-way road snow-ploughed to Red Deer until the spring thaw.

Mr. and Mrs. McNeil left the farm to live in Red Deer in 1956, and have been residing since at 4724-54 Street.

In April 1972, they celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary. The day before their anniversary, heavy,

wet snow started falling and continued on through the night, making many roads impassable for travelling. Power lines were broken down from the wet snow and wind. In some areas, power was restored after thirty-six hours.

Mr. and Mrs. McNeil enjoyed walking and could be seen up town in Red Deer chatting with old friends and neighbors, when they were in their 80's.

Lloyd married Evelyn Walker of Boyle, Alberta, they live on the family farm, and have three daughters and a son. Beatrice became Mrs. Willard Philips and resides on their farm in the Hespero district. They have two sons. Ethel trained as a nurse at the Royal Alexandra Hospital in Edmonton, She nursed for two years at the Stettler Hospital, during which time she met F. Morrison Thornton, formerly of Brantford, Ontario. He attended University in Ontario, and is a Geologist in Calgary. They were married October 9, 1951 and have two children, Michelle and Herber Neil.

Note: Mr. McNeil passed away February 1977.

LLOYD McNEIL

Lloyd McNeil was born at Evarts, December 16, 1922 on the S.½ of 13-38-3-W5. He has resided in the Evarts district all his life, except for two years study at Calgary Technical School. Lloyd took his early schooling at Evarts, and two years of high school at Benalto. Lloyd McNeil married Evelyn Walker, R.N., formerly of Boyle, Alberta on March 31, 1951. She trained at the Royal Alexandra Hospital, Edmonton, and nursed at Eckville and Stettler Hospitals. Their first home was on the N.W.¼ 13-38-3-W5, and a portion of this three-roomed frame house was a granary built about 1919 by Mr. Anderson. Andersons, Fred Pontos, Sibels, Jim Carrolls, and Carl Feitls, (there until 1944), were the previous residents there. Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd McNeil lived there for five and a half years, moving to Lloyd's old home in November 1956, when Lloyd's parents retired to live in Red Deer. Lloyd bought the farm from them.

Lloyd and Evelyn's children are: **Sylvia**, born December 31, 1953. She graduated in Secretarial Arts from Olds College in June, 1973, and is employed in Red Deer. Sylvia married Don Bolkow of Red Deer May 3, 1975. **Marilyn** was born December 31, 1954; she is presently in her final year of Household Economics at the University of Alberta, Edmonton. **Ronald** was born November 14, 1956. He graduated in Soils Technology from Olds College in 1976 and is presently employed at the Federal Research Station, Lethbridge. **Cheryl**, born July 28, 1959, is in her final year of high school at Sylvan Lake.

A blizzard October 14, 1951 left half the swathed crop under the snow till spring. Mr. and Mrs. Kay Watson and Stewart were visiting the McNeils' that Sunday evening and were unable to return home until next morning after the road was ploughed open.

One afternoon in September, 1952, ninety miles per hour winds threatened to carry off their house. Kitchen linoleum billowed a foot off the floor. Grain swaths were badly windblown.

Lloyd McNeil served as secretary-treasurer of the Evarts Presbyterian Church from 1944 to its closing. He is presently an Elder in the Benalto Presbyterian Church, and chairman of the Church Board. He has been a



Lloyd McNeil family, 1976. Sylvia, Evelyn, Lloyd, Marilyn, Ronald, Cheryl.

director of the Benalto Agricultural Society from 1943 to the present time, and president of this organization for 1949 and 1950. Lloyd was secretary-treasurer of the Local Telephone company. It was called Diamond Valley Mutual until its name was changed to Medicine Valley Mutual in 1945. He served from 1945 to March 5, 1967 when the new Dial Service came into use. He has been a member of the Eckville Hospital Board since March, 1963, and chairman of the Hospital Board since January, 1968.

Evelyn McNeil served as president and secretary-treasurer of the Evarts Community Club for terms of two years each. She was a Sunday School teacher at Benalto Presbyterian Church for a number of years, and president of the Benalto Home and School Association for four years. She has been a director of the Benalto Agricultural Society for a number of years. She has been a member of the Local Chapter of the A.A.R.N. of Eckville and Rocky Mountain House. This is her seventeenth year of active service in the Evarts 4-H Club.

The biggest hailstones Lloyd ever saw were June 1933 or 1934, as big as hen's eggs and very little rain with them. All the windows on the west side of Evarts School were broken while the children were writing exams.

The McNeil farm contains Section 13-38-3-5, plus S.E. 24-38-3-5, owned by Lloyd's parents. Land that was added to the farm in later years includes: 1959 — from Frank Cuddihy estate, S.½ 11-38-3-5. 1962 — from C. Ostercamp, W.½ 12-38-3-5, (previously occupied by the Larratts, Halls, Fishers, and Chamberlins) in partnership with E. W. Walker. Mr. Walker is a brother of Evelyn McNeil. 1968 — from Dale Chitwood (previous owners E. Medin and Jim McKinnon) S.W. 24-38-3-5. 1973 — from John McNeil (known as the MacPherson farm), N.½ 2-38-3-5.

Some of the people who have been employed on the McNeil farm during the past twenty-five years are: Jake De Boer, Harvey Smith, Pete Merritt, Les Rutschke, Harold Burdick, Elmer Rasmussen, Jack Volk, Mike Vissia, Jim Carlyle, Rich Heaton.

Lloyd McNeil operated a portable sawmill in Evarts-Marianne area from 1946-1958 and did custom lumber sawing with the help of neighbours. Many enjoyable times were spent by all who took part.

JOHN McNEIL

John, son of Mr. and Mrs. Alec McNeil lived most of his life on his father's farm. He and brother Angus lived with their mother after Mr. McNeils death. John purchased N.W. 2-38-3-W5 and lived there for a number of years before selling his land to Lloyd McNeil and moving into Sylvan Lake where he still lives. Angus married and is now residing at Sylvan Lake.

ADAM HAROLD McPHERSON N.W. 2-38-3-W5

Adam Harold McPherson was born in Scotland in 1880, arriving in Canada in 1903. He first settled in Red Deer and in April, 1906. He was joined by Elsie Dunbar of Archiestown, Morayshire, Scotland. They were married in Calgary on her arrival and made their first home in Red Deer. They were the first homesteaders at Sylvan Lake now known as the Hurlieman farm. In 1909 they returned to Red Deer with their eldest son **William**, then two years of age. **Elizabeth** their daughter, was born the following year. Popularly known as Scotty, Mr. McPherson had contract for the hauling of supplies for the construction of the Alberta Central and Canadian National Railways west to Rocky Mountain House. Two half brothers George and Alex Duncan, drove two of the several freighting outfits Scotty used in this venture. In 1914 the McPhersons moved to Evarts district, naming their farm "Moray Ranch" after the district of Morayshire, Scotland, where they were raised. Besides the farm, Scotty operated a small sawmill at Evarts and later at Rocky Mountain House, where many settlers had the lumber for their first buildings sawn.

Always lovers of good cattle and horses the family was instrumental in improving the standards of stock raised in the district. Scotty had several registered stallions which were travelled throughout the district, and also had one of the early herds of registered Aberdeen Angus cattle which were consistent winners at the local fairs and exhibitions.

At the time of the influx of settlers from the Hebrides, the McPhersons were requested by the Canadian Pacific Railway to assist the new settlers. While Mr. McPherson helped the men in their farming operations, Mrs. McPherson taught many of the ladies to bake bread and churn butter. They were always active in community organizations including the school district, church, and the Caledonian and St. Andrew's Society. As a piper,



Adam McPherson family, 1947.

Mr. . . . piper . . . McPherson was willing to pipe for the Highland Dances held throughout the district.

In the intervening years, two more children were born to the family, **Cluny** and **Sandy (P. Alexander)**. The family had also been joined by Mrs. McPherson's sister, Margaret Dunbar known to all as Maggie, who remained with them until her passing in 1943.

The family left Evarts in 1927 and settled in Victoria, British Columbia, where they operated a large dairy and Mr. McPherson became one of the best known livestock auctioneers on the Island until illness forced his retirement in 1955. Mrs. McPherson had passed away in 1954, and Mr. McPherson died in 1958. The family are still residents now on Vancouver Island.

Bonny Strathspey

Back to My Hame in the auld Scottish Hielens
My thoughts in their leisure how often they fly
Back to the land where the heather and thistle
Bloom o'er the graves where our forebears lie.
Back to the days where as bairns we wandered,
And watched the sky lavrock send forth his sweet lay,
And mocked the cuckoo by the clear winding river,
That flows through the valley of bonny Strathspey.

Oft in my dreams I can see those dear faces,
Though many have wandered the wide world o'er;
Their fortunes to try in the old Scottish fashion.
And I, like the rest, struck a far distant shore.
I've rode the rough ranges of wild Colorado,
Through Texas, Montana, Wyoming, so gay,
And oft with my saddle at night for a pillow
I dreamt of the green hills and woods of Strathspey.

Alberta's green prairies and sunshine beguiled me,
Where the Bronco and Coyote run wildly and free,
And the great rocky peaks as they stretch to the westward
To join the wild mountains of lovely B.C.
For twenty long years I farmed around Red Deer,
Punched horses and cattle for many a long day,
And raised a nice family, was schooled in Old Evarts,
But their Mother often spoke about bonny Strathspey.

Then sickness o'ertook us and our hopes were all shattered.
No matter how healthy, there's no one can boast.
So we got together and talked matters over
And then headed out for a home on the coast.
When we crossed the Columbia's swift flowing water,
To see the clear Thompson dash forth her white spray,
As she rushed through the canyons to greet the great Fraser,
'Twas there my heart languished for bonny Strathspey.

My race nearly over, I'm footsore and weary;
I sat down to rest on an isle by the sea
In Victoria, where fragrant sweet flowers ever blooming,
And the skylarkie's song brings the mist tae my ee.
Often I gaze on the snowclad Olympics,
O'er the blue waves on a clear summer day.
And try to picture the tap o' Benhinnies,
And the great Cairngorms on bonny Strathspey.

Ye Scotsmen and Maidens whare're ye hae rambled,
Whate're like your dwelling place, this ye'll agree:
That doon in ye hert there is something aye sayin',

I'd like tae gae back tae auld Scotland tae dee.
The folks in the old land, they fondly may cherish,
The hame o' their childhood but never, ah nay
Nae half like the lads and lassies that wandered
Far fae their hames on bonny Strathspey.

A. McPHERSON

A native of Rothes.

WILLIAM McPHERSON — by Edith McPherson

William McPherson was born in Red Deer, Alberta. His first school was Waskasoo. The family moved to Evarts around 1913. The farm was about four miles west of Evarts. He attended Diamond Valley, Happy Hill and Evarts schools. In 1927, the family moved to Victoria, British Columbia, and in March 1932, accompanied by his wife Edith, and sixteen month old daughter Elsie, returned to Evarts, where he rented his father's farm of three quarter sections, and carried on farming, until it was sold in 1944 to the Soldier Settlement Board. Returning to Victoria, he started a Custom Tractor Service at which he is still working.

Elsie attended Happy Hill and Evarts schools, and finished her education in Victoria. She worked for the British Columbia Telephone Company, and then the Dominion Bank. She was married in October 1953 to Victor Jones, and has one daughter and three sons. They live about fifteen miles from Victoria.

ED MEDIN

Ed left Smolon, Sweden for Canada in 1907 shortly before his 18th birthday, the trip by boat took about six weeks, arriving in Red Deer May 5, 1907. He completed his schooling and also confirmation classes in Sweden. He had two uncles in Canada, Jonas Johnson and Victor Medin; so this enticed Ed to come to this new country. When he arrived in Red Deer he remembers so well, trying to communicate with people. He wanted to know how to get to Evarts, but could only speak Swedish. After walking around Red Deer and listening, he finally found two fellows he could understand so he asked "how far to Evarts", and the reply he got was "You have got a hell of a long way to go" and the fellow turned and walked away. Ed was upset with his remark.

The first summer Ed worked for a farmer, he had to milk cows. In the fall of 1907 he homesteaded N.W. 36-39-4-W5 at Wood Lake. He built a shack there in the spring of 1908, but moved away, as he found out he had to be in Canada five years before he could get his citizenship papers. He recalled a bad snow storm May 5, 1908, seeding had been done, handles of the drill were just sticking out of the snow.

So in 1913, Ed found himself at S.E. 23-38-3-W5 in the Evarts district, he grubbed trees on his land and was able to break seven acres that year. He said there was sure a lot of roots to pick. The first year he got it seeded he put oats in, he had a real good crop 107 bushels to the acre.

Ed did a great deal of carpentering in this area, Simon Lund worked with him, some of the jobs were working on the Evarts school, the Evarts Curling rink, the Diamond Valley school and the two barns on the John Watson farm to mention a few.



Before 1920 — Nels and Jonas Johnson, Carl Hansen, Ed, Robert and Olaf Medin.



Ed Medin, 80 years old.

Ed in the early days often visited with his neighbors Mr. and Mrs. John Watson, when going to visit them after dark, he whistled as he neared their place so that he wouldn't startle the cattle. He was especially fond of Kay and when he was carpentering at the Watsons he'd let Kay use his hammer, usually he didn't let anyone else use it.

Ed recalled the severe winter of 1919-1920, then he told of the mosquitoes that bothered the cattle and horses in the summertime. One incident he recalled, he was living in a tent during the summer on his quarter, but this particular day, he was out working and when he came home, here he found the bull in his tent with just his tail sticking out.

One evening he was returning home from the Watsons and he tripped over something, he said "Darn cat, get out of the way." The cat turned out to be a skunk. He buried his clothes in dirt for two weeks and he said they still smelt like a skunk.

Ed was a good dancer and really enjoyed going to dances in the early days, Evarts and Hespero were two of his favorites.

In 1933, Ed and his uncle Victor Medin went to Chicago to the Worlds Fair, one of the highlights of his life. They drove down in Victor's car.

Ed was one of the original shareholders in the Evarts Curling club and enjoyed the games. The Ostercamp family in the Evarts district gave Ed many happy times while they lived here.

In the late fifties, Ed sold his three quarters of land he had accumulated in the Evarts district, two to Dale Chitwood and one to Lloyd McNeil. He moved to the Bluebell district and remained there until moving to Sylvan Lake, where he lived until entering the Eckville Manor House in 1976.

Ed passed away in January 1977 at the age of 87 years.

THE MESTON'S — Written by Marion and Alex

The Mestons were relatively new comers to the Evarts district having moved from the Three Hills district in the fall of 1960, on September 17th. We purchased the farm N ½ 20-37-2-W5, previously owned by Bud and Geneve Hanna. We farmed there till the spring of 1973, when we sold out to Mr. and Mrs. George Goruk, of Red Deer. Later, we moved on an acreage west of Wetaskiwin, where we are presently living.

Thomas Alex Meston, was the third son born to Mr. and Mrs. Archibald Meston. Archie Meston homesteaded east of Three Hills, coming from Tilsonburg, Ontario. He married the former Grace Fleming, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Fleming, who homesteaded just east of the town of Penhold. There is a Fleming Street in Penhold named after the Flemings. Alex received his education at a country school called Bethel, where he used to pull Dolly Stewarts hair, now known as Mrs. Cecil Stephanson. He also spent two years going to school in Edmonton.

Mary Ann (Marion) Meston was the only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Peter Tainsh of Sunnyslope. Born of Scottish parentage on March 4, 1918, on the farm five miles north-east of Sunnyslope. This day and year being well remembered as a howling blizzard swept across the prairies. Mrs. Tainsh came from Arbroath, Scotland, Mr. Tainsh, from Perthshire, Scotland. Farming in the Sunnyslope district from 1916-1962. Their only son, Peter, taking the farm over from there on. Mary Ann received most of her education at a country school called Crown School Division number ten, two and a half miles west of the farm.

Alex Meston married Mary Ann Fainsh on August 2, 1950. To this union was born two children. **Thomas Frank**, and **Lorraine Marie**. Receiving their first years of School at Tarrington, later years at Benalto, and Sylvan Lake.

Tom took further training courses in welding at Northern Alberta Institute of Technology in Edmonton, and Southern Alberta Institute of Technology at Calgary. Tom now has a portable welding outfit and is in business for himself, known as Toba Welding Company. He married Barbara Osipow, in 1975 and were blessed with a baby boy on June 28, 1976. Boau Clement. They reside at Edson, Alberta.

Lorraine spent two years working in Red Deer, later moving to Wetaskiwin, where she was employed at Gledale Trailer Factory. Lorraine married Darryl Kaiser in

1975. They moved to Asquith, Saskatchewan, the end of August 1976. They are employed in the farming business, and Simmental cattle. They are looking forward to something very special in March of 1977. In 1964, Lorraine was a member of the Evarts Sewing Club.

Last, but by no means least, was the kind hospitality of the Evarts community which we left behind, and missed greatly. One memorable occasion was the surprise party welcoming us into the district. On many occasions that birthday club gathered at each others houses bringing lots of joy and happiness, and good fellowship between neighbours.

THELMA MOHR

I am very pleased and grateful that the Evarts Community think my "one year stint" at the Evarts school in 1950-1951 was newsworthy.

I can say in all sincerity that it was a very happy and interesting year for me and will always be remembered as one of my favorite positions.

I arrived late in August, the trees, shrubs and flowers made a very friendly setting and electricity lit up the inside as well as the outdoors. Heavy wiring was installed in the teacherage to enable me to use my electric stove. I had had my furniture shipped from Saskatoon.

I had thirteen pupils. I remember Murray Stauffer, how his keen interest in and knowledge of electrical work surprised and delighted me. He arranged the stage lights, complete with footlights for our Christmas concert.

When winter arrived the boys were ingenious enough to fill jam tins with water, allowing them to freeze solid and thus providing us with homemade curling rocks. Ice was cleared on the river and most noon hour recesses were spent there.

In spring, we played baseball and also our school project was to improve our school grounds. Many hours were spent to clean up. The boys built, painted and put bird houses up. For our efforts we won second prize in our school division and purchased additional baseball equipment. We invited the parents to an open house and tea.

For our science project in the spring, the older boys scoured the woods, made impressive sketches and detailed notes of wild life and growth; also we collected crows' eggs and legs. The girls made butterfly nets.

There were myriads of beautiful birds flying in and out, especially in the spring, swallows, martins, bohemian waxwings, robins, wrens and wild geese.

My days at Evarts were very enjoyable, the satisfaction of seeing each child improving every day made me very proud.

I hope wherever these pupils are now, they are as happy and enthusiastic in their chosen life as they were at Evarts.

I often recall those days and shall always be glad that I was once a part of such a wholesome community life.

Thelma Mohr, now resides in Calgary, Alberta.

JACK MULLARKEY

Jack and wife Maggie came from Ireland to the Gilby district, north of Eckville, before coming to the Evarts district and residing on S.W. 14-38-3-W5. Mrs. Mullarkeys sister Mary Kerr lived with them. She assisted at the Watson home. It is quite certain that they all returned to Ireland.

THOMAS MUNRO — written by Christina Murphy

It was an early autumn morning of 1919, when Margaret Ann Munro closed the door of their Calgary home on 2421-5 Avenue, North-West. Here their children Christina, John and William had been born. By the evening of this day, she and the children would have travelled by Canadian Pacific Railroad train to the hamlet station of Benalto. At the station waited her husband Tom with team and buggy, to take them the eight miles to their newly acquired farm in the Evarts district. Less than two miles from the farm, they were met by Thorel Eymundson who asked them to have supper and spent the night with them. This kindness shown to a tired mother with two small children and a three-month-old baby was gratefully received. Thus began a lasting friendship and the many other acts of kindness extended by Mr. and Mrs. Eymundson, were never to be forgotten.

In his late teens, Thomas Munro left his birthplace, Strathly, Scotland, to come to Calgary in 1907. Here he established his own coal and dray business. These were good years, but there was always the yearning to farm. This dream was fulfilled when he purchased the S.W. 28-37-2-W. 5 in the Evarts district from a Mr. Pugh in July, 1919. Margaret Ann (Dickie) Munro came to Calgary from her homeland Aberdeen, Scotland, in 1911 as a visitor. While visiting friends, she was offered employment in the household of Lord and Lady Loughheed, Calgary. She remained in their services until her marriage to Thomas Munro, November 7, 1913.

The first years of adjustment to farm life had its difficulties and hardships. Their farm adjoined to the south, the Icelandic district of Hola. They were the only Scottish family in the neighborhood. The genuine friendship of these people, their talent for music, their homeland with its rugged terrain, the occupation of its people, held a great similarity to that of the North of Scotland, so they found they had much in common with their Icelandic neighbors. One was the interest in raising sheep, so sheep were purchased. The sheep and the milk cows proved to be a "mainstay" through the years of depression. The distance from the church was disappointing. To remedy this, Mother conducted her own Sunday school, teaching us the children's hymns and Bible stories. Later Mr. Sheppard of the Happy Hill district conducted services and Sunday school in homes and schools. He was highly respected and despite his age, untiring in his efforts to bring God's word to the people. September 7, 1921, another son, David was born to the Munro family. In May of 1923, Jack and I started school at Evarts. To make the five mile trip, a quiet old pony had been bought from Mr. William Robertson. Violet proved to be an "old faithful" for years. She took the Munro "kids" to and fro from school. This distance was filled with interest and excitement and we had the companionship of the Eymundson and Hillman children, but to our parents it was a worry. Often on a cold winter afternoon, Father would come to meet us with a team and sleigh box with hot bricks and warm blankets. The home of John Hillman stood like a beacon on this road and because of their kindness, our parents knew we could stop on a cold morning or afternoon to be warmed. The attending of school at Evarts, lessened the links with the Markerville area to the south. Our Post Office became Evarts, groceries were bought at Andy Stewart's store and father



Thomas Munro, 1911.



Mrs. Thomas Munro, 1911.

and mother began to take an active part in the Presbyterian church there. The school was the centre of all social functions from dances, box and shadow socials to Bobby Burn's night, but the most important of all was the Christmas Concert. Our teachers took time and effort to make it a success and there was always the willing and capable Mrs. Andrew Stewart who played for all the marches, drills and vocal numbers. Miss McKean of Dickson, Alberta, had the first Christmas concert in which we took part. Little did we know then that in the years to come, I would teach her grandchildren. Life on our farm at Evarts, was never lonely.

Our two storey house stood only thirty yards from the road that lead to Innisfail and to Calgary, so it served as a wayside inn to many a weary settler or traveller. One sight that went past in the winter was the horse-drawn grain boxes with their drivers walking behind and both horses and man covered with hoar frost. At spring break-up there would be a long line of horses and mules of a Mr. Frank Jackson on their way south to railroad construction. Early July brought many Indians on their long trek to the Calgary Stampede. These were the happy years filled with contentment and creation. Children created their skating and hockey rinks on the nearby river, their ball park on some farmer's field. Parents created to fill their family needs and there was always time to visit with their neighbors. Mother and father passed away in their middle sixties. Mother at home while doing her afternoon tasks on September 22, 1951 and father May 18, 1954 in Vancouver General Hospital. They were laid to rest in the Medicine Valley Cemetery beside their infant son born April 3, 1927.



William, Christina, David, Jack Munro, 1938.

Christina became a teacher and on April 8, 1942 she married Scott Murphy, a farmer of the Diamond Valley district. They have two sons, Lawrence and Allen. Jack became well known in Central and Southern Alberta for his work as a foreman for the Department of Highways. Following his army service in the Second World War, he married Ethel Plaster, Penhold. He started farming in the Evarts district and continued as foreman on number one and number two highways. To Jack and Ethel were born seven children. Jack passed away suddenly in the University Hospital, Edmonton, September 27, 1957, at the age of 41. William (Bill) married Mary Ivan of Taber. They had six children. In 1963, Bill sold his business in Southern Alberta, and they moved to Calgary where he became engaged in the real estate business until his sudden passing August 30, 1973. David married Muriel Wentworth of Edmonton. They reside in Calgary. In 1975, Dave retired from seventeen years in the garage business. In 1976, he joined the firm of Jackson Real Estate. Their sons, Neal and Lorne are in the teaching profession.

Note: Christina has now retired from teaching after twenty-nine years of service.

JOHN AND ETHEL MUNRO FAMILY

John (Jack) Munro, the eldest son of Margaret and Thomas Munro was born in Calgary. In the fall of 1919, the family moved to S.W. 28-37-2-W. 5, in the Evarts district. Jack received his education at the Evarts school. As a youth he was keenly interested and active in community sports such as ball, curling and hockey.

In the spring of 1937, at the age of eighteen, Jack obtained his first work with the Alberta government highway, driving his father's team on the construction on highway No. 2, from Penhold to Red Deer. Through the years he became well known in southern and central Alberta for his work as a foreman.

Following his service in the Second World War, he married on April 19, 1944, Ethel Plaster, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Plaster of the Ridgewood district.

In the spring of 1945, Jack and Ethel erected buildings on S.E. 29-37-2-W. 5 and started farming. During the summer Jack continued to work on the highway.

On September 27, 1957 tragic sadness came to the family when Jack passed away suddenly, because of a cerebral hemorrhage. He was laid to rest in the Red Deer cemetery on his forty-first birthday.

Ethel and the seven children, ranging from age of twelve to two years, continued to farm. Eventually the decision to leave the farm was made and the family moved to Blackfalds for a number of years, then to Red Deer where Ethel purchased a house in Westpark, residing there with her family until they had grown into young adults.

Tragedy struck again on July 17, 1969 when the eldest son, Larry Erwin 24, passed away in the University hospital, the result of a traffic accident on number 11 highway. He was married to the former Vivian Landry, of Blackfalds, they had three children. Margaret, obtained her registered nurse degree, married to Guy Pannell, of Red Deer. Joy, has a registered nurses-aide degree, employed in Edmonton. Brian, is an electrician, married, residing in Edmonton. Donald, and his wife farm in the Stettler district. Joy, married Phillip Stephen,

the couple and their sons reside at Grande Cache, British Columbia. **Glen**, is a farmer in the Stettler area.

Ethel's year is occupied by keeping house for her son Glen, visiting her married family to help care for the grandchildren and doing a little travelling.

JACK MURDOCK

In 1900 Jack and his brother Andy came from County Down, near Belfast, Ireland and stayed in Montreal the first winter while working in a wholesale liquor and grocery store. Their interest in the west, North West Territories (later to be Alberta) was aroused by advertisements of homestead land, 160 acres for \$10.00 and plenty of pasture for cattle and horses. In the fall of 1901, they came to Red Deer, where they got a livery team and drove out to this district looking for land. Andy homesteaded N.W. 36-37-3-W5 on December 4, 1901 and Jack homesteaded N.W. 18-37-2-W5. They met Billy Woof, who was also looking for land. The three spent the first winter together. Late in the fall they built a log shack on Andy's place, the ground was frozen, a well was dug down through the frost and the clay was used to plaster the log shack. Dead grass covered the earthen floor, hay was borrowed from Fritz Giselman for the roof. They had a cook stove for their heat, so the shack was pretty cold when the cold spells hit. On one occasion, early one morning Jack got up to stoke up the fire and get breakfast. Soon a loud squawk was heard from Billy Woof. His moustache was frozen to the blanket. There was over a foot of hoar frost on the blanket from their breath. A heater was soon bought.

Jack and Andy joined up for the Boer War in 1902. When they left they took several car loads of horses for use in the war. Jack helped look after them for 26 days on the boat. Several horses died while crossing the equator on account of the heat: The horses were for the Lord Strathcona Horse, the company sailed for Cape Town, then were ordered to Durban. While disembarking, one of the horses jumped out of the chute into the ocean. A colored fellow jumped out and landed on his back and headed him to land. Going back earlier in the story, while unloading the horses from the train, a young Eastern man jumped on one of the horses, which was an outlaw. It bucked him off and trampled him to death.

After leaving Durban they were shipped up to Newcastle by train into the Zululand. They laid in the open that night because tents were not up yet. Soldiers were not cared for and some became very lousy. Water had to be hauled by oxen or mules, eight or ten to a cart and were driven by two colored men, one a driver, the other with a whip.

There were 1400 men on a boat coming back to Canada. One evening the canteen was taken over by two soldiers, who gave out beer generously. All were punished later by a fine of \$8.00 whether involved or not.

Jack returned to his land and built a shack and barn, later went to Calgary as a bricklayer. While there he met Rooney Bjornson of Markerville, they were married in 1910 in Vancouver. They stayed in Langley Prairie, for seven years before returning to Alberta. The homestead was sold to Jesse Craig in 1911. The barn was moved to the Craig farm. In 1918, he bought N.W. 16-37-3-W5, which is now farmed by son, Andy.

The Murdocks raised a family of five:



George Sterling, Jack Murdock, 1972.

Andrew (Andy) married Enid Learmonth and has a family of three sons.

Margaret and **Jim** are twins. Margaret married John Dinnery, they live in Edmonton where Margaret teaches school. Jim married Jane Howat, they farm south-east of Red Deer. They have a son and two daughters.

Johnny married Agnes Vick and farms in the Diamond Valley district and has a family of three girls and four boys.

Frank the youngest makes his home in Red Deer.

Mrs. Murdock passed away in 1958 after a lingering illness. She was highly respected and will be remembered for her singing voice.

Jack was born on January 1st, 1879 at Lisburne, Ireland. He celebrated his 98th birthday this year, enjoys good health and resides at the Twilight Lodge, Red Deer.

ANDY MURDOCK

Andy and his brother Jack came to the area each homesteading a quarter section, Andy's was N.W. 36-37-3-W5. Much of Andy's history has been included with Jacks. He was a surveyor by trade and did a lot of contract building in the city of Calgary especially apartment blocks. The two brothers worked on many jobs together, Jack and his ability as a bricklayer and Andy with his construction work.

Andy had a quarter section of land out near Hespero that gave him a great deal of pleasure. He made it into a

nursery, it had many varieties of shrubs, trees and flowers, especially peonies, of which Andy was so fond. One of his greatest pleasures was entering flowers in flower shows, he won many prizes after moving to Calgary.

Andy and his wife spent several years living on Vancouver Island. In 1975 they moved back to Northern Ireland, where Andy passed away at the age of 92. His wife still resides there.

MURPHY, HUGH

Mr. Murphy was born in Kent County, Ontario, in 1870, and went to Vancouver in 1910, where he met Margaret Gavin, who was born in Aberdeen-shire, Scotland in 1885. They were married in 1916, and left for Regina, Saskatchewan, and later they went to farm at Hespero.

Mr. and Mrs. Murphy moved into the Evarts district, locating on what was known as the Woodmansie place, being the S ½ 20-38-2-5 in the spring of 1919. They had originally moved from Edmonton, with their three children, on to an unbroken quarter at Hespero. Moving in those days was quite different from modern methods, as there was little packing done, everything was loaded in the hayrack helter skelter, and sorted out at the new home. The cattle and extra horses were herded along behind the wagon, usually tended by the older children. In those days the "correction line" was a very rough road with lots of corduroy, so all the household goods got well shaken up en route.

Five of the ten children were born in the Evarts district. They were **Merritt, Jerry, James, Keith, and Mae**. In the early spring the family moved to the Jerry Chapman farm, S.E. 13-38-2-5 which was situated about one mile west of Evarts. Mr Murphy rented the farm from Mr. Chapman, who retired and lived in Evarts. It was while here that Mr. Murphy took over the auctioneering business of George Welsh, who was leaving the district. I think Mr. Murphy's first sale was on the farm of Mr. and Mrs. Black as they were leaving to live in Calgary. This was the beginning of a very successful auctioneering career that lasted over twenty years in the area from Rocky Mountain House to Red Deer.

Late in the fall of 1921, Mr. Murphy bought a quarter section of school land three miles west of Evarts, being

S.W. 11-38-3-5. In the winter of 1921 and 1922, he built a log house and barn, so the family were able to move into their own home in the early spring of 1922. Through the summer of 1922, the quarter was fully fenced, and sixty acres cleared and made ready for crop the following year. In the meantime seven or eight cows were milked and the calves and also pigs were raised for the market. The year 1924 was a tragic year for the family, as two children, Merritt and Mae passed away in the same week in October. That winter in 1924-25 was very cold, with record lows of temperature. On December 17, 1924, the temperature fell to 69 degrees F. below at Evarts. The thermometer did not raise above 45 degrees below F. for three weeks. The school were closed because of the cold and snow, so the Christmas parties and other celebrations had to be postponed. I think these are most of the highlights of those years.

Looking back, they were happy years. The community as a whole was always ready to help anyone in trouble. Many happy times were had at the picnics in the summer and dances and other events throughout the year.

Jack went to the west coast, where he worked in the fishing business, later working in the Powell River pulp and paper mill. He got married and he and Alice have four children, Peter, Rosemary Fraser, and Patricia. They still live in Powell River, British Columbia.

Scott married Christina Munro, and to this marriage was born two boys, Lawrence and Allen. They farm in the Diamond Valley district.

Barbara married Myron Nielsen. They have four children, Virginia, Wayne, Mervyn, and Raymond, also twins, and a baby girl passed away in infancy. They live at Benalto.

Jerry worked for Pete Stewart and hauled the mail from Evarts to Benalto for a few months. Later he joined the armed forces in World War II, leaving in 1941, and coming back in 1946. He married Helen Hiller and to this marriage were born four children Judy, Conrad, James and Loree. They live in Edmonton.

James also served in the armed forces in World War II. In 1941, while still in England, he met and married Joan Wonham, and they have five children, Bonnie,



Mrs. Murphy and children.



Hugh Murphy family. Sitting, l. to r. — Scott, Barbara, Mr. and Mrs. Murphy, Elsie. Standing — Jim, Robert, Keith, Jerry, Jack Gavin.

Terry, Patricia, Fraser, and David. They live in Surrey, British Columbia.

Keith and his wife Dorothy have four children, Jo-Ann, John, Scott, and Kathy. They live in Burnaby, British Columbia. Keith passed away in the summer of 1976.

Elsie married Albert Harris and to this marriage was born three boys, Murray, Ronald, and Danny. Albert passed away in 1961, and about a year ago, Elsie married Peter Johanson. They live in Vancouver, British Columbia.

Robert and his wife Helen have four children, Robert, Mike, Dale, and Susan. They live in Surrey, British Columbia.

I might add that in 1925, the Murphy family left the Evarts district, and moved to the Shady Lane district, northwest of Hespero, where they farmed until 1930, and at that time selling the farm and moved to the Diamond Valley district.

LAWRENCE I. MURPHY — S.W. 2-38-3-5

Lawrence, son of Scott and Christina Murphy was raised in the Diamond Valley district, and received his education in the Spruceview area.

In June of 1971, he married Gloria (McFaul), daughter of Ron and Phyllis of Edmonton, being formerly of the Red Deer and Penhold area. Gloria was born in Whitehorse, Yukon, where her dad was employed with the Department of Transport. At this time, Lawrence was farming land of Hal Craig in the Happy Hill district, and some of John R. Craig's land in the Evarts and Diamond Valley districts.

In June of 1973, a daughter was born, with the given name of **Kimberley Dawn**.

Spring of 1974, became a very exciting year, when Lawrence and his family purchased and moved to the above location owned and lived on by many people, the most recent being John R. Craig.

In January of 1975, another visitor came to be in the Lawrence Murphy family, a son, **Bradley Lawrence**.

THE FRED NEEDHAM FAMILY — Margaret Schofer

In April of 1910, my Dad, Fred Needham and his brother-in-law, Leo Franke, went to Stettler, Alberta from Erie, North Dakota. They were met by Dad's brother, Walter, who took them to the Lloyd George District, where he had picked his land, and filed homestead rights and pre-emption rights on three quarter sections.

Dad and Uncle Leo, then went back to North Dakota to finish up their affairs and bring their families and belongings to their new homeland. They left Uncle Walter to take care of their interests and break the required amount of land to hold homestead rights. Dad and Uncle Leo came out again in October, 1910, shipping their settlers' effects and stock to Stettler. They loaded the furniture etcetra that was needed right away for the homestead on wagons, and left the balance on freight cars to be re-routed to Morrin as the railroad was being built south. This freight did not arrive until March 1911. Lumber, bought in Stettler, meant a return trip. The first loads were taken to Uncle Walters, a two day trip, and left in his yard. By this time the women folk and families

had been advised to come. My Mother, Bertha Needham, was a very young woman with two children, Edward one and a half years old and four month old Pearl. Uncle Leo's wife, Pearl, was the mother of two year old Frances. Another Needham brother, Uncle Wesley, came to help the ladies with the children and he also took up a homestead in sunny Alberta. On the trip out from Erie, more immigrant cars were added to the train. Passengers were mostly women and children going to join their menfolk on homesteads in the new land. On the train and before leaving North Dakota, the ladies had heard some wild stories about cowboys and Indians in Alberta. On arriving in Stettler in early November, they had to stay overnight. They got rooms in a hotel operated by Daddy Vart and his wife who was a mother to all who came with children. Their rooms were on the main floor of the hotel, near the office. As usual there was a lot of noise around and when the women looked out of their rooms to see what was going on, they saw men wearing cowboy clothes and guns. They were not long in closing their door. The men folk came from the homestead in the early hours of the morning and collected their families, and the next day started on the long trail, travelling over frozen ground for a full day's trip.

Homes had to be built before winter set in. A work bee was arranged and wonderful neighbors were there to lend a helping hand. As the saying goes, many hands make the load light, and soon homestead shacks were up, with many hardships facing the women and men alike. Many years later, proper homes were built. On one of the first nights in their new homes, the women and children were left alone, as again the menfolk had to go to Stettler for supplies. There were no locks on the doors and the women were still not very brave in this new land, so all the big knives that could be found were put in the door. When the menfolk did return, it took some time before they could get in the house, with all the knives to take out. Needless to say, the locks were put on the door the next day — but very seldom used after the folks got used to the country.

As the years went by, more children were added to the Fred Needham family. There were **James**, who is with the Alberta wheat Pool at Breton and who will be retiring from this position in 1977; **Calvin**, who is now at Claresholm; **Ina** (Mrs. John Moore), at Langley, British Columbia; **Irene** (Mrs. George DeWitt) at Airdrie, Alberta; **Margaret** (Mrs. Schofer) at Eckville; **Ralph** is in Calgary; Frances (Mrs. Carmen Baird), at Rancho Mirage, California; **Clarence** at Alhambra; **Gordon** in Calgary; **Roy** at Big Valley; **Lloyd** at Hemet, California; **Edward** in Calgary and **Pearl** (Mrs. Archie McAlister) at Big Valley. Dad passed away on February 12th, 1962, in Stettler, after many years of illness. Our baby sister, **Eleanor**, passed away on October 7th, 1972, in a plane crash. Eleanor, her husband, Tony Giesebrecht and their youngest son Freddy, aged sixteen, owned their own light aircraft and reside at Nanaimo, British Columbia, along with two other older boys. However, it was Eleanor, Tony and Freddy who were flying from Nanaimo to Lethbridge airport for the Thanksgiving week end — Tony's folks lived at Macleod and they were going to visit them. Ten minutes after their aircraft left the Kelowna Airport, the plane crashed, and all three were killed. They were found in the early hours on the next

day. Their two oldest boys Dwayne and Donald are still at Nanaimo. In July 1972, Garry Needham, Edward's eldest son, was killed in a motorcycle accident in Calgary.

It was in 1933, that the family moved to the Benalto-Evarts District — to the S.E. 26-38-3 W5, known to us as the Black Farm and now the home of Mr. and Mrs. Leo Soerd. We went to school at Evarts — in the winter with the sleigh, in summer horseback, Bennet Buggy or walk.

Our closest neighbors were Dewey Nielsens, Mr. and Mrs. Dave Hamilton and the Robert Medins. These homes were our second home. We spent many happy hours with these wonderful neighbors.

In 1935, we moved to the town of Eckville and from there the family broke up and moved to many different places. Mother is still with us, spending most of winter in California with Frances and with Lloyd. This summer, 1976, she was not able to go back to her home in Big Valley and happily to say, she has been with me since coming back from California. She was 85 years young on November 15th, 1976.

Through the early years in the Lloyd George area — our home was ten miles east of Rowley, Alberta. The Needham families helped in every way possible. They helped to build the Lloyd George School. In the early years it was called Mickicki. They boarded many of the teachers and served on the school boards. Dad was one of the districts musicians, playing violin, piano or banjo, along with his friend and neighbor, Jesse Miller, on the drums. They played for many school and good old barn dances and in homes. They were always active in community affairs and their doors were never closed to any one in need. In those very early days everyone had to depend on their neighbor for help and it was always there and in our family it carried on throughout the years as long as it was humanly possible for Mom and Dad to do it.

As I sit and write these memories with the help of my sister, Pearl and Mother (most of it came from them), along with my brother-in-law Archie McAlister, a lot of very pleasant thoughts go through my mind; most of them good times at home. Although there were many of us, and times were tough in the '30's, we did have a happy home life and very thankful for every minute that we had together. The bad times seemed to bring us closer together. We always enjoyed our neighbors wherever we lived — and Sundays were a big day when we lived at Rowley — there were always neighbors coming over or we were at the neighbors for that friendly ball game, horse shoe games, and usually at the end of the day, a big picnic lunch with lots of home-made ice cream. Those were the good old days.

I, Margaret, started to work in the Eckville Town office on April 4th, 1949, and am still on the job. I worked in the Post Office for a number of years with Dan Clausen, also for a short time after Gordon McNeil became postmaster. My brother Jim had the Rural Mail Route number three, and I helped out on this at that time and later became involved with it again. When we first started on this route, I remember, Jim going out with a team and sleigh, leaving at seven A.M. and getting home around seven at night. His pay? It was about three or four dollars a day. He would change teams about half way around the route. Now this same mail route covers the

Evarts area and very seldom does it take more than three hours to do it, even in the winter time — with roads being kept open and we do not need to use horses and sleighs anymore. Well times change and we must keep up to the times.

JOHN NELSON-ANDERSON-ERICKSON FAMILIES — written by Arvid Anderson

The first member of our family to arrive in Alberta, was an uncle of my mother's, John Nelson, who came from Sweden, with his family about the turn of the century and homesteaded the N.W. 2-38-3-W. 5, on October 27, 1902. This was later occupied by the Adam (Scotty) McPherson family. He held a auction sale on July 2, 1913.

Mr. Nelson who was widely known as "Preacher Nelson" (had a long white beard and took his auto harp with him every place he went.) He carried on a far-reaching pioneer ministry in the homes and churches of the Scandinavian people of Central Alberta, north to Pigeon Lake and Wetaskiwin and east to Coronation, travelling by team or on foot, as circumstances permitted. He was in the mission field for the Presbyterian church from 1904-1908. He was a resident of Red Deer and district for about 24 years. He was well known and highly respected. He was married and had one son **Joe** and a daughter, **Naomi** (Mrs. John Torgud). Of interest to readers, her son Ray Torgud, was radio announcer on C.K.R.D. Red Deer, when it first started. She also had a daughter Florence (Mrs. Victor Graham) of Calgary.

John Nilson (Swedish spelling for Nelson) died on February 4, 1927, in his 74th year.

Mrs. Nelson, Joe and Naomi are deceased also and all are buried in Red Deer cemetery.

John Nelson was fascinated with the primitive beauty of the parklands of Alberta and writing back to the old country, urged his relatives to follow him to this new land.

Mr. Nelson was my grandmother's brother and in 1903, my grandfather **Eric Hendrickson**, his wife Karen, and my mother Signe, (youngest of the family) arrived in Red Deer. My grandfather worked at carpentry on some of the original buildings along Gaetz Avenue, before coming West to Evarts. He homesteaded on S.W. 28-37-3-W. 5, afterwards owned by the Dan Mount family and presently by Mrs. Mounts eldest son, Jim Murray. The first winter on the homestead was spent in a tent, with black bears, bob-cats, weasels, etc., visiting frequently. A log house still in use was constructed the following summer.

The Ericksons (Mr. Hendrickson's sons, following the Scandinavian custom of using the fathers given name "Eric" and adding the suffix "son") came to Evarts, Alberta, in the following years.

Fred Erickson, the eldest, homesteaded N.W. 32-37-3-W. 5. From the home established there, the family operated the Erixon telephone central some years afterwards.

Carl Hjalmar Erickson, the youngest son, homesteaded N.E. 20-37-3-W. 5, which he later sold to G. W. Smith of Red Deer. He moved to Blairmore, Alberta, where he began and operated a construction business, which he carried on the rest of his life.

Aaron Erickson, came in 1911, living for a time on his father's homestead and later purchasing back his brothers land from G. W. Smith. This became the home of the Aaron Ericksons and was owned until recently by the Harry Erickson family and now by Steve Carlyle.

Two older daughters of Mr. Hendricks also came to make their homes in Alberta. Mrs. **Anna Nyberg** to Red Deer and Mrs. **Bertha Selstrom** to Burnt Lake.

My father **Carl Oscar Anderson**, also arrived in the Evarts area, from a farm near Pleasant Lake, North Dakota in 1903. For a time he helped to operate a saw-mill on the N.E. 10-38-3-W. 5, known locally for years, as the "Hosey homestead", later owned by the Solomon family and presently by John and Neva Craig. Oscar Anderson was accompanied by his sister Lydia who later became Mrs. Victor Medin and whose family still reside in the Eckville area. For some time, prior to the coming of the railroad west from Red Deer to Rocky Mountain House, my father hauled freight by team between these two centres, the route followed being the Burnt Lake Trail, which wound its way along the higher ridges of land, by way of (Stockholm) Burnt Lake, through Evarts, right by the land he homesteaded and thence on to Rocky Mountain House. His homestead was the N.W. 10-38-3-W. 5. After filing on the homestead he built a frame shack on the land, which later was destroyed by fire, in which the carpenters tools brought with him from the United States were lost. This was followed by building of the frame house, which still stands on the farm.

In 1907, my father married Signe Hendrickson. To them were born three children; **Astrid**, who died at the age of 16, **Arvid** (myself) and **Allen**.

In about 1912, my father was injured in a logging accident, which started a series of complications, which caused him to have to spend much of the following five years in hospitals in Red Deer and Edmonton. He died in 1918.

In 1920, my mother married, Jim Brooks. They had three children: **Harry**, married Ada Wingate, of Leedale, Alberta and now resides at Leslieville. **Alford** and wife Beatrice of Summerland, British Columbia and **Myrtle** (Mrs. Arthur Bott) of Rocky Mountain House. Mr. Brooks passed away in 1948, mother at the Senior Citizen Lodge in Sylvan Lake in the fall of 1973.

Allan, married Coral Temple, of Grenfell, Saskatchewan, and they live in Eckville. He farms the land homesteaded by our father. I (Arvid), married Bertha Harty, of Bow Island, Alberta and reside in Eckville. I established a wood working business in Eckville, in 1954 and this business developed into a trailer manufacturing plant known as Dual Craft Industries Limited.

The Burnt Lake trail, though still known locally as such, is no longer a trail, it now follows the surveyed road allowances west from Red Deer. The original route which wound through the wooded hills and valleys of west central Alberta can no longer be traced exactly, though we know it passed by Burnt Lake hamlet (originally called Stockholm) and Evarts, crossing the Medicine River there.

JOE NELSON

Joe, was the son of "Preacher Nelson". He was a resident of our district, having the S.W. 14-38-3-W5. On this quarter, he and Martin Lund, who homesteaded in what is now Alhambra district, built a house, although he didn't live in it. This house burnt down within a short time. Joe was an elevator agent at Hespero for a number of years after leaving Evarts.

He married Engbor Lund a nurse of Alhambra in 1918. They had two sons, **Russell**, who is presently a grain buyer at Carstairs, and **Harold**, who passed away three years ago, while living at Dawson Creek, British Columbia. Their daughter, **Eileen**, married Don Pederson, and resides at Lodgepole, Alberta.

The Nelsons moved to Bowden, where Joe was in a garage business until he passed away. His wife still resides there.

JOHN AND MARIE NIELSEN — written by Orla W. Nielsen

My parents, John and Marie Nielsen immigrated from Denmark to Nebraska, where my three sisters; **Ella**, **Hilda**, **Lily**, and brother **Dewey**, and myself, **Orla W.** were born.

In the spring of 1902, my Dad moved his family and belongings by freight train to Olds, Alberta. It was a very wet year and being a small child, I remember wondering when we arrived with the car load of our effects, why Olds had been built on a muskeg. The only dry place was the station platform where our four horses, two cows, machinery and furniture was unloaded.

We moved to a homestead north of Wimborne and stayed there eleven years. In 1913, we went to Washington, U.S.A., where I worked in logging camps and saw mills until 1917, then moving to Innisfail, Alberta, where I worked for Jim Rogers in his hardware store and on his farm.

My parents returned to Canada in 1915 and bought N.W. 24-38-W. 5 from Jack Robinson and lived there until they passed away, my Dad in 1924 and my Mother in 1942.

Ella married Wm. (Bill) Hansen and had four sons, Earl, Herbert, Clifford and Orval. They farmed in the Happy Hill district for several years before retiring to Innisfail, where they now reside. They celebrated their 61st wedding anniversary on September 26, 1976.



John Nielsen families — Margaret, Orla, Lily, Dewey, Hilda, Bill Hansen and Ella, Mr. and Mrs. John Nielsen and grandchildren.

Hilda married Ernest Jensen from Calgary, he passed away. Her second husband was Saxton Soderburg. They lived on the east outskirts of Sylvan Lake. A son Chester and family now live in Calgary. Hilda passed away recently.

Lily became the wife of Everett Nielsen and has resided in Benalto all of her life. They had a daughter Lorraine who became Mrs. Norman MacKenzie of Red Deer, and a son Lorne (Tuney) married Lucy Vick, they reside in Benalto.

Dewey married Carrie Hope and lived on the home farm. They had a daughter Patricia.

ORLA W. NIELSEN — by Orla W. Nielsen

I married Margaret Budvarson on Christmas day, 1918. She had been working for Dr. and Mrs. Alfred Turner, of Innisfail for two years, coming there from Edmonton. She came with her parents, four brothers and sisters from Iceland when she was eight years old, settling in the Markerville area.

The spring of 1919, we lived at the Jim McKinnon place. I was working for my father and also helped to build the first elevator, the Alberta Pacific in Benalto. The cement for the base of the elevator was mixed by man-power with shovels. We called it "on the sweat board". Wheelbarrows were used to dump the cement. During this time our son Andrew was born here.

On December 1, 1919 we rented Section 17-38-2-W. 5 from my uncle Andy P. Nielsen, which was known as the McMillan ranch, and now owned by Hambly's. We farmed here for eight years. Margaret's sisters Ella and Kristy Budvarson stayed with us and went to Evarts school. In 1920 we bought the N.E. 8-38-3-W. 5. It was a solid bush quarter, which I cleared by hand and in 1927 we moved on to this land in the Diamond Valley district. While here, our daughter Darline was born. When we left the section, a man by the name of Walter Raider, known as Missouri, moved in.

I was a member of the Benalto Stampede Board for several years, also a member of the Markerville Band in the early days. John Hillman was also a member of the band. The band played for the Benalto Stampede dances for several years.

I remember around 1927, having a hired man come to work. His wages were \$2.00 a day with board. One day I was going to town, so he asked me to get him a pair of bib overalls, the total cost for them was \$1.00.

The storm in March of 1951, will always be remembered by Margaret and I, as we decided to take in a show at Sylvan Lake theatre. After the show we started for home not realizing the blowing snow in town was really a terrible blizzard. Out on No. 11 Highway headed west, we managed to follow behind the bus to the Eckville corner. We travelled a short distance and couldn't get any farther, because of the snow drifts. Seven of us, Carl Anderson, Mrs. Jim Tulloch, the Anderson brothers, Margaret and I stayed in Charlie Schuneman's vacant house. It certainly had been lucky for us, that there was a stove left in the house and again luck helped us out, as there happened to be a meat-saw hanging on the wall, and some fence posts near the house. That's the way we sawed the posts up to keep the fire going and keep us warm. The blizzard kept going all night. The next day Margaret and I walked the five miles home, as our cars



Orla W. Nielsen family — Darlene, Andrew, Margaret, Orla.

were stuck on the highway. It was several days before Highway No. 11 was opened.

Margaret and I had two children. **Andrew** married Shirley Nielsen of Benalto, and **Darline** married Bruce Burns. They have a daughter Nola Dawn. We all live in the Diamond Valley district.

On Christmas day, 1976, we will have celebrated our 58th wedding anniversary.

DEWEY NIELSEN

Dewey, the third son of John and Marie Nielsen, was born at Olds. He came with his family to the Evarts district in 1915. After his schooling, he carried on farming with his father on N.W. 24-38-3-W5. In 1928, he married Carrie Hope, who was born in Ontario and came to Red Deer with her family in 1912. She took her high school in



Dewey Nielsen, 1955.

Red Deer and came to Evarts to teach school in 1925. While here, she lived in the teacherage. She taught Grades one to nine. Years later, she once again taught the Evarts school, but had a whole new generation of students.

Carrie and Dewey had a daughter **Patricia**, who married Al Jardine, they have a son, Mitchell, and live at Lloydminster.

While Dewey was farming, he would spend the winter in the west country, west of Rocky Mountain House, where he ran his own saw mill outfit. He later moved the saw mill out to Kettle Valley in British Columbia and sold it there. He then built and operated the 'Rod and Reel Motel', at Osoyoos in British Columbia.

After "retiring" from the Wabaman School in 1962, Carrie taught for about four years in the Alberta Vocational Centre, Edmonton, and is now residing in an apartment there.

Dewey was a community spirited man and was Stampede Manager of the Benalto Stampede for many years. He was happy when riding his horse. He lived for several years at Osoyoos before succumbing to a heart attack in 1963. His nephew, Lorne (Tuney) Nielsen has the farm at Evarts now.

ANDY P. NIELSEN

Andy with his wife, Marie and family, came from Nebraska in 1919 to visit his brother John and family who lived in the Evarts district. While here he purchased Section 17-38-2-W5 from the MacMillan brothers and rented it to his nephew Orla W. Nielsen. Andy did not live here, but came up occasionally on trips.

OLI MADISON NIELSEN — written by Myron Nielsen

Oli Madison Nielsen emigrated from Denmark, to Wall Lake, Iowa, United States, in 1876. He married Elizabeth Klitzke on February 17, 1897. They had three children born in Iowa; **Mae**, **Everett** and **Orla**. They moved to Dundurn, Saskatchewan in the early 1900's. The remainder of their family were born there, the twins, (**Murle** and **Myron**), **Laurel** and **Roy**. In 1919, the family moved to the Evarts district, buying the farm from Donald Smith, S.E. 4-38-2-W. 5, called the Island Ranch. This farm consisted of nine quarters of grain and hay land. They brought a large herd of good quality Hereford cattle and horses, machinery, a model T Ford and a 1916 Maxwell car. Orla came with the stock on the train, Everett stayed and ran the 36" threshing machine doing custom work, then came to Evarts. Myron and Murle stayed behind and with their pony, herded 80 head of cattle. They took their lunch and stayed at a straw pile till night, then drove the cattle back to the corral at the farm. They stayed with a neighbor at night. They were only twelve years old. After two weeks, the cattle were sold and we came to Red Deer by Canadian National Railroad on October 19th. There was snow all over and the river was frozen. Laurel and Roy were seven and five years old when we moved here, hence their nicknames Seven and Five. There were lots of exciting times on the ranch getting settled. There was only 60 acres broken for crop. In five years, we broke up about 700 acres of land, we put up a lot of hay, milked twenty cows and had a cream route to Markerville. We worked 35 horses in the spring. Everett and Orla played in the Markerville Band and played on the Benalto Baseball team. After a few



The O. M. Nielsen family, on left, Mrs. John Nielsen.

years, all six boys played baseball in the league. Dad was a member of the Benalto Agricultural Society and was a show exhibitor. He took a special pride in horses and for several years took top prize at the Red Deer Exhibition with his driving horses. Dad moved to Happy Hill and Murle and Myron farmed the ranch for two years and then bought the John Woods place and moved there. Everett married Lillian Nielsen and went to Vancouver, where he worked for a couple of years. He then moved back to Benalto, where he ran the British American station, he also had a trucking business and farmed land around Benalto. Their family consisted of two children, Lorne (Tuni) and Lorraine. Orla spent some time working in British Columbia, then came back and farmed in the Evarts, Benalto and Happy Hill district. He married Edna Krogh and had three children, Shirley, Darwin and Dale. Edna passed away October 29, 1972. Mae was a registered nurse and worked with Doctor Sommerville of Eckville. She was also an artist. She went to Mason City, Iowa, where she met and married Oscar Stoltenberg. After seven years of marriage, she died of a heart ailment, at the age of 42 years. Murle married Margaret Cummings of Calgary. Myron married Barbara Murphy of Diamond Valley district. Laurel married Mary Palm of Sylvan Lake. They have one son Gary, and live in Benalto. Roy married Inez Johnson of Benalto. They live in Red Deer. Mother passed away in 1961 at the age of 85 years. Dad passed away in 1966 at the age of 93 years in Seattle, Washington, where he was living.

MURLE AND MYRON NIELSEN

Murle and **Myron** moved to the John Wood place, S.W. 20-38-2-W. 5, in the spring of 1933 and in 1936, Murle got married and in 1937, Myron got married. We lived together for about two years. During that time we had many good times together. With two young brides living in the same house, along with the good times, we had some trying times. The men broke up quite a bit of land the first years. After about two years, Murle, his wife and son **Lee** moved to a farm south of Condor. Besides their son, they have two daughters, **Marlys** and **Twyla**. They lived in Calgary where Murle passed away on November 25, 1971. Myron continued to run the farm as well as work out. He worked on the railroad at Benalto for a few years, also on road work and bridge work. We have four children; **Virginia**, a registered nurse, she married Marvin Prier, of New Serepta. They have two children, Gail and Ross. They farm at New Serepta. **Wayne** was a cowboy and followed the rodeos for a few years. Wayne then managed a garage in Ontario, then took to trucking, going through the States. Wayne is married and has one daughter **Cindy**. **Mervyn**, married Penny Garton and they have one son **Randy**. They live in Red Deer and Mervyn works with the gas companies. **Raymond** lives at home and goes to school in Sylvan Lake. We moved to Benalto in 1962, where we still live.

LYLE NIELSEN

Lyle and Donna were married in October 1974, after which they moved to the Evarts district. Lyle is the son of Mr. and Mrs. T. Nielsen of the Poplar Ridge district. Donna is the daughter of Mrs. Lois Jeffrey of Red Deer. Their land, the Ed Medin place, was purchased in the spring of 1973.

"We really like living here in our little house on the prairie" as we call it, since we set up our trailer in a hay field.

CLARENCE OSTERCAMP FAMILY

Clarence and Maxine came to the Evarts district in 1945 from Edmonton. They purchased their land N.W. 12-38-3-5 from Robert Larratt and lived in this district for seventeen years. During this time their family increased by five; Walter, Wayne, Marilyn Mae, Dennis Alan, Cameron Lewis and Garnet Brent. The four older children attended Evarts and Benalto schools.



Clarence Ostercamp family — back row — Cameron, Marilyn, Wally. Front row — Dennis, Clarence, Myrna, Maxine and Garnet.

Maxine was a member of the Evarts Community club, also helped with the 4-H club.

After moves to Ponoka, Leedale and Red Deer and the addition of a daughter, Myrna Mae, they now reside in Taber, Alberta. Clarence has the pool hall there.

Wally lives at Blackie and is manager of the seed plant. He married Barbara Forrest of Red Deer. They have four children.

Marilyn became Mrs. Adrian Van Westenberg, they reside in Calgary, where both work in banks.

Dennis is an Administrator for Social Services in Rocky Mountain House.

Cameron works in a body shop in Abbotsford, British Columbia.

Garnet is employed at The Alberta Hospital Recreational Therapy, Edmonton.

Myrna attends school in Taber and is in grade six.

KARI OLSEN — written by Audrey Olsen

Kari Olsen was born in the Centerville area on a farm now owned by Mae Sigurdson. His parents were John and Sigrun Olsen. They moved to a farm in the Hola district. As a young man Kari helped on the home farm and worked out.

In 1937, Kari, married Audrey Hanna, daughter of Walter and Amelia Hanna, who came from Scotsguard, Saskatchewan in 1934, to the Evarts district to farm.

Prior to Kari, and I getting married, I did housework for some neighbours in the Evarts area.



Audrey and Kari Olsen and family.

Shortly after we were married, we moved a granary in which to live, on a quarter of land that belonged to Kari's mom. This quarter we referred to as the north quarter S.W. 33-37-2-W5. (North of George Lee). Our first stove we bought from Mrs. P. N. Cameron. She had bought it from a cafe in Red Deer years before. We soon built a house for our family on this land. While we lived here we had five children. There were no passable roads to this land, and it was so far from school; so a few years later, we moved to the Hola area. A new school had been built near a farm, that we had just bought. The school was called New Centerville.

We still farmed the quarter that belonged to Kari's mom, north of George Lee.

After Kari's mom passed away, Kari, and his brother Fred inherited this quarter jointly.

Kari, and I had nine children; **John**, married Laura (Wecker) of Happy Hill, and they live on the farm near the New Centerville School. They have two children. **Walter**, passed away as an infant; **Peter**, and his wife Bonnie (Wecker) of Happy Hill, live in Red Deer, and they have three children; **Karen**, married Bill Champ, they live on a farm east of Innifail, Alberta, and have a family of four. **Leonard**, passed-away as a young man in a car accident, **Jimmy**, and his wife Linda (Rosenke) live in Red Deer, and have one child. **Connie**, married Bernie Enghoj. They and their two children, live in Red Deer, Alberta. **Steve**, married Elly (Monkman), and live in Red Deer, Alberta, with their two children. **Corrine** married Randy Graham, and reside in Red Deer, Alberta.

When Kari passed away in 1974, I sold my share of this quarter to Kari's nephew, Robert Olsen (Fred's son) who now farms it. I now live in Sylvan Lake, Alberta, with my father Walter Hanna.

W. OTTO

It is thought, a Mr. Otto, a relative of W. Otto, homesteaded the S.E. 4-38-2-W5, possibly never living on this land. One of the requirements to obtain homestead land was to have a cabin built thereon. Another shack was built on N.E. 4-38-2-W5 where W. Otto and his wife Emma lived. It appears this family left shortly after the turn of the century, being one of the first

homesteaders in the area. George Fitch recalls, when as a little boy, Mr. Otto and his dad dug out a den of coyotes. One of the pups was saved for George, but being too old and wild, it had not seemed profitable to save him because of the chickens. The coyote got away once, only to be returned. The second time he disappeared, George found him slain, which was a disappointment to him.

HARRY PERICHE — S.E. 16-38-2-W. 5

Harry Periche was born March 22, 1922, at Rocky Mountain House and raised fifteen miles south in the Dovercourt district. He came from a family of three boys and four girls, of whom two sisters and a brother are living today. In 1940 Harry found himself working on farms as far east as the Evarts district. It was here he met me, Dorothy, only daughter of Ed Mannerfeldt. I was born at Evarts in 1923, receiving my education in Evarts, Benalto, Dickson schools and later the University of Edmonton, where I took teacher training. I took positions in Jackpine Grove, Marianne and Evarts schools before we were married in July, 1946. We bought my grandfather Mannerfeldt's homestead, and after many hard years of struggle have added a section and a half to the family holdings, as we gradually became a little more mechanized.



Harry and Dorothy Periche.



Donald and Shirley Periche.

Harry and I have two children; **Donald Edwin**, born June, 1947, and **Shirley Jeanne** arrived April, 1951. Don helps his dad farm, and also he took a year's training at Olds Agricultural College.

For the past several years now, Don has worked in the winter slack season for drilling companies, often in the far north.

Shirley trained as a commercial artist at Northern Alberta Institute of Technology. At present she resides in Calgary where she is employed by Simpson-Sears, working in display there.

Our life has been quite uneventful. I might mention one event which stands out in my mind. It was shortly before Shirley was due to arrive, that we had an outstanding blizzard in March of 1951. This storm has been previously mentioned, so please pardon the repetition.

Early in the afternoon, it began getting dark, snow coming down in generous amounts. Around six o'clock the wind rose blowing the snow furiously. Within minutes the roads became questionable. Already there was about a foot of loose snow from the days previous. I finally decided I should get to the hospital without delay. We arrived at my parents house about ten-thirty that night, it had taken that long to get only that half-mile. Dad had come to meet us with his tractor and with much difficulty, pulled our old car through the drifts. By now it was obvious we would be foolish to try further that night, so we stayed the night there at mother's. In the morning, after consultations with neighbors, doctor and the snowplow man, we decided to try again. Walter Valli kindly saw me to Eckville, pulling the sleigh-box behind his caterpillar tractor. Mrs. Owen volunteered to go with me, and we headed out as the crow flies for Benalto, and on to Eckville. From what I remember, we were over six or seven hours, with a short stop at Benalto for a cup of coffee. The only place where we could move without difficulty were the tops of hills. Sometimes Walter was nearly buried out of sight, as he left us behind and packed a way for the sleigh. Dad, Harry and my uncle accompanied the sleigh, most of the time on foot, as there was so much unhooking and hooking up to do. It was quite cold, but I don't remember suffering any cold, our main concern was getting there. We were all to the point of exhaustion, when we got to Eckville late in the day, and I couldn't help but worry for them all on their way back in the cold, without a stop, as chores were waiting long overdue at home. One thing I learned that day was how generous some people can be with giving of physical efforts for someone. I had pleaded with them at Benalto to go home instead of continuing, but the men insisted it was better to get me to the hospital. I still feel guilt for all the fences we cut with a plier that day. The only good thing about the whole trip was that the last few miles were considerably better than the first, and we took for the road after crossing the Medicine River. It was two weeks before the train was able to make it through Eckville, and roads were even longer to clear. It was necessary for two caterpillar tractors to plow the snow, and I understand they had to go back and forth crosswise instead of the usual manner. I might add that Shirley arrived on the scene safely in the hospital several days after the big false alarm.

I was able to teach school for eight years, starting in 1956 at Evarts, and when it closed for consolidation, I

moved with my Evarts class to Benalto, where I taught for five years before retiring. Aside from that, life goes on at the Periche ranch much the same as usual.

WILLARD AND BEATRICE PHILIPS

Willard Philips was born on the family farm near Rocky Mountain House, Alberta, the second son of James Arthur and Laura Philips. He took his schooling in the nearby Arbutus School and then worked on his father's farm until he was 17, and had his first job on a threshing crew near Markerville. Willard's first view of Evarts was in 1935, when he passed through. In 1937 Willard was with Dewy Nielsen, for whom he was working when they saw a fire at Evarts and found the store on fire. That night he met many of the Evarts people. In 1938, he went to work for Clyde Stauffer, and also helped out at the Watson and Wells farms. In 1939, he came back to Stauffer's and continued on for the winter.

Beatrice was born on her folks farm at Evarts, the oldest daughter of David and Ada McNeil. She took her schooling at Evarts, then Red Deer, and one year at the Eckville High School.

With the war now calling men, Willard joined up with the army and in January, of 1944, went overseas. He had the privilege of seeing much of Canada, and also Great Britain. In June, of 1944, he was one of many who had a part in the "D" Day Invasion. He saw much of France, Belgium, Holland and Germany. After the war was over, he spent some time in Germany before returning home in December, of 1945.

In 1946, he worked for Ray Niemela, coming to work for Peter Stewart in November. On January 25, 1947, they were married. Beatrice had spent one year working for the Stewart's at the Evarts Store after her high school and two years at the Imperial Bank in Sylvan Lake. They worked at Evarts, for the next five years. In 1949, **David Arthur**, their first son was born, and in 1952, a second son, **Keith** was born. We moved from the Evarts district to our own farm near Eckville. David married, Wendy Primrose, daughter of Gordon and Joyce Primrose, of Rocky Mountain House, Alberta, and has two girls. After a couple of years in Nova Scotia, they are back at Rocky still working on oil rigs. David first worked for Northern Geophysical Limited, and worked in the North West Territories and Yukon, as well as many parts of Alberta and British Columbia.

Keith also took all his schooling at Eckville, and went to work for Quinn Contracting Limited. He worked as an apprentice in welding, and completed his course in Calgary, working for Fruehauf Trailer Company. In 1973, he married Judy Szoke, daughter of Anthony and June Szoke of Bentley. They now live in Grand Prairie, Alberta, where Keith works for Fenley Machine Company, and Judy is with the Post Office.

Living at Evarts for the first part of our married life meant much to us. We had to learn a lot about farming and it was a good place to learn. With one John Deere tractor, we kept going as much as possible, day, and night. The first year they put in around 400 acres. Murray Adams helped that spring, and both Willard's brothers, Archie and George helped in following years. In the spring of '48, a very heavy snow fall in late April, delayed seeding, and the first we did was on June 1st. A wonderful growing year followed together with a great

fall, and a very good crop was harvested. Daisy Britton helped cook for the threshers that fall. 1949 was a very early spring with little moisture after the snow melted. Frost and drought made it necessary to plow under some of the crop. This was the year Peter Stewart built his new barn.

In 1950, we purchased the Robert Medin farm and put our first crop in with the help of Peter Stewart's machinery in the spring of 1951. This crop had to remain in the field all winter due to a very early snow fall. We left Evarts at the end of 1951 and spent the winter with Willard's folks getting out some lumber and posts to start on our own. We moved to our own place in the spring of '52 and farmed there for the next eight years when we purchased another quarter of land. We moved then to the SE quarter of Section 6-39-3-W5. We still farm both quarters.

GARY PLAYFAIR

Gary, Terry and Shane Playfair, moved into the Evarts district in August, 1973. We bought the N.E. 21-38-2-W. 5 and everything was just what we were looking for. It had a mountain view, quiet surroundings and acres for Gary to work. Though Gary is a farmer at heart, he is an oil driller by trade. Gary and I were married August 9, 1968, and saw a lot of Alberta as we travelled with the oil rigs. Gary was raised in the Leedale district and attended Eckville school. I came from Crestomere district and attended Crestomere school.

Our son **Shane**, was born February 25, 1970, at Rimbey hospital and is now attending Sylvan Lake school.

The three of us were soon made to feel a part of the community and that this was our permanent home. We weren't too long in making impressions of our own. The

fall of our first crop, we managed to burn down 3,000 freshly stacked straw bales. We've managed to keep a fairly low profile since, but then, there's always next year!

ALEX PODMOROFF FAMILY

Alex and Darlene came to the well known Island Ranch from the Ponoka district. They purchased the farm from the Gallant family. They had a family of boys namely, **Danny, Kenny, David, Kelly** and **Terry**. The children attended the Benalto school. Darlene and Alex were interested in the Evarts community and took part in its activities. They left Evarts and moved to a farm in the Olds area. Another son **Ricky** was born there.

FRED PONTO — written by Audrey Ponto

When we moved to Evarts in March of 1929, there was only the two of us, Fred and Audrey Ponto. In June of that year we had our first child, **Ralph**. The passing years brought six more babies to bless our home. **Shirley, Mavis, Carol, Harold, Raymond** and **Dennis**. Harold (deceased) as a result of a car accident. We moved from Bentley with all our worldly goods, which consisted of three horses, two mules, two heifers and one small runt pig, which was in a little box tied on the side of the crate. Fred had taken our household goods over a few days earlier. We started out from Bentley one morning with the outfit seen on the picture, drove across Sylvan Lake, which almost scared me to death, as there was water on the ice and I was sure we would break through. Roads were bad and travelling slow and it was dark by the time we crossed the old bridge south of Benalto. Just over the bridge, we upset the whole outfit and had to reload. To add to my discomfort, I developed mumps that day. It was about ten o'clock when at last we arrived at the



Fred Ponto family moving in 1929.

shack we were to live in on the old Johnson place, S.W. 24-38-3-W. 5. I cooked some coffee and being young and foolish, ate a bread and cheese sandwich, which did not help my painful swellings. We lived in a one-roomed shack until late in the summer, when Mr. Johnson built another room. Ed Medin, our nearest neighbor, built in a cupboard for my dishes and groceries. Fred farmed the half-section with three horses and two mules and sometimes got the use of a team of horses from Mr. Johnson. The first summer, we took eight milk cows from Donald Blair for a year. We sold the cream and got a heifer calf for looking after them. The first winter we spent at Evarts, was called the winterless winter, as the weather was so wonderful and there was hardly any snow. In March, there was a severe three day blizzard and then it was nice again. Mr. and Mrs. Dave McNeil were our near neighbors and such good kind people they were. Being half Scotch, I enjoyed living at Evarts very much and found the people all kind and friendly. Those were the years of low prices and hard times and Fred helped to make a living by trapping every winter. I'm sure he walked hundreds of miles and often dropped in at different places for a rest and a cup of tea or coffee and lunch. It was always enjoyed and appreciated. The winter of 1932, our three year lease on the Johnson place expired and Fred drove many days trying to rent a place, but to no avail. There was just no place to rent at that time. In the end, we bought a raw quarter north of Benalto and Eckville became our town. Hard work and hard times lay ahead, but that is another story.

We now live in Sylvan Lake, Alberta.

ALBERT PROEHL

Bert and Marge Proehl moved to the Evarts District December 13, 1965 with their three children, **Bonnie**, eight years old, **Blaine**, six years and **Dianna**, one and a half years. Bert was employed at Sylvan Lake Chevron Plant, located S.E. 21-38-2-5 and lived in a trailer on the premises. In August 1969, Bert was transferred to Slave Lake and shortly after moved to Fox Creek, where he is employed as area supervisor of Pacific Petroleum Ltd. Bonnie, is married and lives in Edmonton, Blaine and Dianna are still at home.

C. B. (BOB) PUGH

I arrived in Bowden, Alberta, November 5, 1915, having come from England to Minneapolis in September, and lived fifteen miles west until February 21, 1916, when we moved to the Markerville-Evarts district. My father, Albert T. Pugh, had purchased the quarter we called "home" from a couple who were of German origin. I don't remember their names, as they were just moving out, when we arrived. However, the farm had been known as the "Doc Dooney" place at one time.

The area around us for some distance was rightly known as "Starvation Flats". The reason, I am sure, was early frost, lots of sand, and gophers by the hundreds. We had fine people for neighbors, mostly Icelandic. John and Ruuni Olson and family, Hunfords, Baldur Stephenson, Thorlaksons, Mr. and Mrs. Bjornson and family (Bjorn, Annie, and Bertha), and Mr. Eggiman, who lived just west of the Bjornsons on the old Plant place. North of us were Thoryl Eymundsons and the Hillman family as well as the Donald Smiths.

Most of the livelihood was derived from the dairy industry, milking cows and selling cream. This was delivered to the Markerville Creamery which was six miles from our place, either by democrat or wagon, in the winter by sleigh. We bought our groceries from Benedictson and Stephenson, Markerville. Times were pretty tough, especially at our home. Mother would not stay, and went to her brother at Minneapolis, and as a result of this, Dad, my brother and myself had to shift for ourselves. The following winter, Dad went to Minneapolis and came back early in the spring. I had had enough of "Starvation Flats", and struck out for myself. In the meantime, I had made many friends amongst the Icelandic people, and never have forgotten their kindness to me. All through the years to the present time, I have kept in touch with some of them, although of course many have passed on. I still visit Regina Johannson, and through her keep up with the news. My Dad sold out in August, 1919, and had an auction sale, which I attended. I was working in southern Alberta at the time.

From 1920 to 1939, I farmed west of Bowden, moving to Benalto during the summer of 1939, and was employed as a grain buyer for Alberta Pacific Grain Co. until 1944. I moved to Sylvan Lake in June 1944, and bought grain for five years until 1949. During the ten years with the elevator, I was continually in touch with old neighbors and friends and today I can appreciate more than ever the "Good old days", even including "Starvation Flats".

There were some humorous times in those days. Sam Einarson, at a party at John Olson's, attempted to teach me some Icelandic, and what it was all about I don't really know, but everyone roared with laughter. Once my brother and myself made a batch of butter and took it to the store at Evarts. Jack Robinson, who ran the store, took the butter and gave us groceries, but later we had to work out the price of the butter, as he said it was rancid, and not edible. We hauled hay for Robinson and in the end, I'm sure he was well paid. The neighbors had some good laughs over it. The one time I worked for Donald Smith, two miles north of us, and he gave me a huge sow for my wages. She had twelve piglets, but we didn't have enough grain to feed them out, so we had to work out again to get the grain to finish them. I think my brother's share of the pigs ended up with a watch, which he got in part trade. Money was something we heard about, but never saw.

We musn't forget a few people I met just west of the river. Fritz Giselman family, Eddie whom I got to know well, the Bardahl family, also the Shephards, who were just across the river from Eymundson's. My father finally sold the farm to Mr. and Mrs. Tom Munro who lived there for quite some time. Who owns the place at this time I do not know. The only landmark that now appears is a small spruce tree that is close to the road.

It has been a pleasure to write these few lines about my earlier years, and to also remember so many of those persons who struggled so hard to make a living, and who shared all they had at times with one another. I am glad that I was fortunate enough to have had a small part in it all.

WALTER RAIDER (Missouri)

Walter Raider came from Missouri, United States, and was always known in the Evarts district as "Missouri". The farm he worked on was section 17-38-2-W5 known as the McMillan farm. Our calculations tell us he arrived in the Evarts district in about 1927. He with Jack Bond, ran the section with horses. The fence they constructed was much different than the average fence at that time. They used a low page wire with strands of barbed wire above. There was also a pole on top of the fence between each fence post. The corner posts left nothing to be desired either, as they were well over one foot in diameter, and were more or less of a land-mark for years. It was necessary for Missouri to get into the post hole to dig it out on the southeast corner. These two men worked for A. P. Nielsen, who at that time was living in United States.

In 1932, the Seibel family moved to the McMillan farm, and Jack Bond stayed on with them for a time, while Missouri went back to the United States to work again for A. P. Nielsen. Missouri was a bachelor, and is remembered as being a very lively bidder at the local box socials, buying several boxes in one evening.

REDELBACK FAMILY

Rueben Redelback was born August 17, 1920 in Maple Creek Saskatchewan. He was brought up on a farm south of Walsh with his seven brothers, and one sister. He left home when young, and worked in Brooks, until he was called to the army. After being discharged, he went fishing near Edmonton, where he met his wife-to-be.

Lavina was born March 16, 1928 in Swift Current, Saskatchewan. She lived with her family on a farm east of Wadena until 1945, when she moved to Edmonton. In 1947 Rueben and Lavina were married at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Redelback in Medicine Hat.

The first of December, Rueben and Lavina moved out to Lake Newel, where they lived in a small dug-out on an island, where they fished until spring. The ice was only two or three inches thick and Rueben drove across with his gravel truck, loaded with all their possessions, which consisted of mostly wedding gifts. Lavina stood on the shore holding her breath, as she listened to the ice cracking under the truck, and was very relieved when it made it to the island. She walked, being afraid to ride in the heavy truck.

Rueben and Lavina later moved to a little two-roomed shack, where their first baby Florence was born. They were later able to buy a small trailer, which they moved from one gravel hauling job to another. In the next five years, Lavina endured thirty moves, which was necessary because of the fishing, farming and trucking. The fishing was hard, but fun. Lavina had to run behind to keep warm as there was no heater in the jeep they used.

In 1956, Rueben and Lavina bought their own farm, five miles south of Brooks, after share cropping on his parents farm, before that. They farmed on their newly acquired land for eighteen years. During this time they kept on fishing and trucking until 1972.

In 1966, on Lavina's birthday, they lost their home because of a chimney fire which ignited the roof rafters. They lost nearly everything. The phone had been disconnected early in the fire, and the neighbors arrived too



Reuben Redelback family.

late to help save too much. When the fire department came, the house was already burnt to the ground. They had very little insurance, and what they did manage to save, amounted to practically nothing, but with the help of their friends and neighbors, they received clothing, bedding and other various articles of need. Rueben was away trucking at the time, so Lavina and the children took refuge at her mother's and Rueben's brother, Fred, until they could find a house. There was a rental shortage at the time, and it was impossible to find a house, to accommodate two adults and five children. Mr. Jim Donald, a friend of the family had an extra house and an acre of land on the outskirts of Brooks which he let them have at a very reasonable price. They continued farming from town and rebuilt the house in 1968. Also in 1968, Rueben became seriously ill and was hospitalized for many months. Fortunately Rueben pulled through, but he was told he would never regain his health. They sold their farm in Brooks and bought a smaller dryland farm from R. A. Staniforth, in the Evarts district, where they spent three of the happiest years of their lives. Rueben passed away December 18, 1976. Lavina and her children like it here and plan on staying.

The Redelback family consists of Florence, Sharon, Jack, Jeannette, Terry, Naomi and Ryan.

ALFRED AND JEAN REEVES AND FAMILY — Written by Jean Reeves

I was born at Churchbridge, Saskatchewan. My father, Samuel Moore, emigrated from Ireland in 1898, taking up a homestead northwest of Churchbridge. My mother, Shara Allan, came in 1909, and they were married at Bredenbury, Saskatchewan in June of that year. Mother passed away in 1921, leaving five small children. My father kept us all together. My brothers and sister walked four miles to Logburg school, and the same home each day.

In 1931, I married Alfred Reeves of Zeneta, Saskatchewan, whose parents were also early settlers in the Dovedale district in 1904. Alfred and his brother attended the Dovedale school, until the Reeves school was built about 1906, and named after his family. We had three children, Lillian, Allan, and Sheila, all born at Zeneta, Saskatchewan. Alfred and I farmed and ran a bulk oil and trucking business until 1948, when wanting

something a little better for our children, sold out and moved to Kelowna, British Columbia, but we did not like it there. We liked the looks of the country around Evarts, and so in 1949, we sold our business and in February of that year bought the Evarts store and Post Office where we did business until July, of 1969. The store part of this establishment was moved from Oyen, and Mr. Hillman built the house. The other neighbors in the hamlet of Evarts, were Sam and Dave Braton, and Beatrice and Willard Philips. The local Ladies' Aid, dances, box socials, card parties and the children tobogganing down Ball's hill kept us busy and happy. On March 16, 1951, there was the worst storm we ever saw. Alfred had to walk over the drifts to Benalto with the mail bags on his back to get the mail through. It was a week before they got the road open. They had to get the biggest caterpillar in the Municipality to open the roads. In July, 1952, we had a very bad hail storm. It took part of the roof off the store and destroyed over \$500.00 worth of groceries. Several neighbors came and helped put a new roof on, and the ladies brought food for the work bee. The river used to overflow its banks nearly every spring. One spring morning we woke up to find that the river had flooded, and Pete Stewart's cows, with about 30 young calves were marooned on an island. The cows would not come off without the calves, and they had no feed. Several young men of the district borrowed a boat, and some lariats and tied ropes to the boat so that those on shore could hold the boat from going down stream. They managed to get across to the island and catch the calves one at a time, tie their feet together and lay them in the boat, and bring them over to higher land. When the calves were all over, the cows swam across to their calves. The boat was left at the store that night. About twelve o'clock that night, we heard someone calling for help. The Sauders, who were working for Pete Stewart, and ourselves, got on the phone and called for help. Two men had driven in the river, and a big cake of ice coming downstream had hit the truck, and pushed it off the road. The water was only about four inches off the top of the truck. The same young men, that had ferried the calves to safety that day, took the boat across with ropes tied to it, and managed to get the men out of the truck and took them to the hospital as they were chilled right through while we made coffee for the rest, at the store. We have many happy memories of Evarts. Due to ill health, we sold the store, and moved to Red Deer, after living there for twenty years. Alfred passed away in April of 1971, and I still live in Red Deer. Our children are all married. Lillian married Don Wakey of Red Deer. They have two boys. Allan married Evelyn Keil of Barrhead and they live in Edmonton. They have two children. Sheila married Henry Maday of Edmonton, and they live just out of Red Deer. They have three children.

Following are a list of families who resided at the Reeves residence after they left to live in Red Deer.

Donna and Gary Parkins rented it.

Ruth and Dick Wiens bought it.

Zoskippy purchased it from Wiens. When they moved away.

Mrs. Baker rented it. **Mr. and Mrs. Les Rutschke** purchased it from Zoakippy and are residing there.

HENRY RISTOCK

The Ristocks came to the district from Athabasca area, purchasing the store and post office in Evarts from Bob Langer. The Ristocks had one young son. They decided to put in a small counter and stools and start a small coffee shop, however, this didn't seem to go too well. After a short time, they sold their business to Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Reeves.

WILLIAM ROBERTSON — Bill Robertson — N.W. 20-38-2-W. 5

William Robertson emigrated from Scotland to Pennsylvania, United States of America, around the turn of the century. Emma Liddell was born and raised in Montreal. I do not know how mother and dad got together in the old days, as Montreal was a little ways away from Philadelphia. Dad worked in a lace mill and became foreman in his shop. Mother told me that she was one of the first stenographers in Montreal in the days when you lifted up the carrier to see if the spelling, etcetera was alright. Montreal Rolling Mills was her place of work. One of the clients or customers of the Rolling Mills was a Mr. McBride. Later this gentleman was to become our neighbor on the farm.



Wm. Robertson Sr., 1909.



Emma Liddell (Mrs. Wm. Robertson Sr.), 1909.

John, my older brother and myself, **Bill**, were born in Philadelphia. As a family, we moved to Evarts in 1919. Dad moved out somewhere around the new year, Mother, **John**, **Leslie** (who passed away as a young child), and myself, arrived later on in the summer.

Sometime in the twenties, Dad became the Secretary-treasurer of the Evarts school board. At that time, he could not be a trustee, being an American. However, mother's ability as an office worker, it seems to me, assured Dad the job of the secretary-treasurer with mother doing the work.

Evarts school was our place of education until grade nine was accomplished.

John remained on the farm two miles north of Evarts. My pathways led in a different direction. In the mid-thirties, I attended theological colleges in Three Hills and Calgary. After graduation I found myself in Revelstoke, British Columbia. The war changed the picture and I



Mrs. Wm. Robertson, sons, John and Bill.

found myself in the Royal Canadian Air Force, having a trip to Britain in the deal. Following this episode, I found myself in the Okanagan Valley in British Columbia, in the Christian ministry. At present, I am living in North Vancouver, having spent a number of years starting and building a church in this city while at the same time working in a department store.

My wife, Elizabeth, whom I met in Calgary, while in college, and married during war years, is the mother of our four children. Russ lives in Honolulu. Charlene lives close by. Lawrence is at home, but next month, plans some skiing in Switzerland. Les enjoys his skiing on the local mountain and works there.

JOHN ROBERTSON — N.W. 20-38-2-W. 5

John married Senia Sutela, from Hespero in 1939. They have three children, **William**, of Vancouver, British Columbia, married to Norma Dewald of Barrhead; they have two boys, Dean and Darren. William has been employed by Cominco Consolidated Mining and Smelting Co. since he graduated from the University of Alberta. He has been in various positions, and is now manager of Distribution.

The twins **Kathleen** and **Keith**, were born in 1947. Kathy lives in Red Deer and is employed by Alberta Government Telephones. Keith, married Margaret Cobb, of Edmonton and their two children, Richard and Janice, live on the family farm. Keith helps his dad operate the farm in conjunction with his own half section.

To supplement his farm operation, Keith, who graduated from the Institute of Technology as an automotive mechanic, works for Festival Ford in Red Deer.

John worked out, for extra dollars by doing carpenter work in the neighborhood. He started growing registered seed grain in 1955 and now holds a twenty-year long service certificate award from the Canadian Seed Growers Association.

ROBERTSON — FREW AND BLAIR FAMILIES — Margaret Frew Burns

My uncle, David Robertson, left Airdrie, Scotland and came to Canada in April, 1912. He came to Alberta and to the Evarts district and worked for Mr. Willoughby for a few months. He then bought the farm, S.W. 4-38-2-W. 5 from the Willoughbys, for \$22 per acre. His brother Bob, sister Maggie and a nephew Jim Frew, arrived in the fall. The following July, 1913, the Ebe Frew family and Nellie Robertson, a sister, arrived and took up residence on the same farm. They started farming, which was something they knew nothing about. Dave had worked in a mill in Glasgow, Scotland. Bob was a baker, and Mr. Ebe Frew worked in the Crown Iron Works, in Coatbridge, which was a town joining Airdrie. Mrs. Frew (Catherine Robertson) who was used to the baker, butcher and milkman coming to the door, now had to learn how to make bread, and butter. She also learned to milk cows and within a year, mother and I, (who was then 11 years old), were milking 24 cows. Mother churned the cream and made ten pounds of butter every day, and shipped it out. My dad, who was in poor health in the last year in the old country, did regain his health here and lived to be 90 years old. One day when he was searching around the place for a piece of iron, he found a piece with the Crown stamp on it. This was a piece he had made himself in Scotland, as that was his job to make and mould iron. One would have thought he had found gold.

The little old white washed log shack was a far cry from their nice home in the "old land", and I am sure they had many a homesick day, and many a hard trial.

Nellie Robertson married Donald Blair who then farmed at Ricinus. He was the means of getting the Frews to move there also in 1919. The Blairs came back to the farm after Uncle Dave left and Bob had passed away. Finally the Blairs moved to Sylvan Lake in retirement. The Frews spent their last years in Eckville. The farm was sold to the Jensens and then to Arthur Staniforth, and is now owned and farmed by Bill Staniforth.

Three sons and one daughter made up their family.

Jim, married Jenny Yeudall of Edmonton, they have a daughter, Margaret, better known as Fairy. Jim passed away in 1965. Fairy resides in Calgary.

I, Margaret (Peggy) became Mrs. Wyck Burns. Wyck was born in Quebec, after residing in California and Oregon in United States, he came to Claresholm, Alberta, on to Ricinus and then to the Diamond Valley district. We farmed there until we moved to Eckville. In July, 1976, we celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary. Our three sons, Bruce, Stanley and Robert, are all married and farming in the Diamond Valley district.

John, married Mabel King, who came from England as a girl. They had five boys and a girl. John worked as a blacksmith in the Canadian Pacific shops in Calgary. He is retired and lives there.



Blair, Robertson, Frew and McLeans, 1962.

David took Jean Wight for his wife. She came from Prince Edward Island and was a niece of J. J. Bowlen, Lieutenant-Governor of Alberta. Jean taught school, David was caretaker of a big school in Calgary. They have two boys. In 1976, David and Jean retired, and moved to Vernon, British Columbia, they were only there a few months when David passed away suddenly.

John and I attended school at Evarts. My father played the accordion and was in demand at house parties and as he became better known he played at more gatherings. David also played the accordion and Jim was very renowned for his singing.

Note: Mrs. W. Burns was also very musical and has entertained at many occasions with her singing.

GEORGE W. ROBINSON

Alberta Government Archives states, "The S.E. 12-38-3-W5 was entered as homesteaded by George W. Robinson on the 30th day of October, 1903. After building a house he went back to Thief River Falls, Minnesota to get his family and died there, February 16, 1904. A son, **William Robinson**, a merchant at Thief River Falls, made a statutory declaration in the matter of his father's homestead in North West Territories. It is claimed, George W. Robinson resided about a year at his homestead, so he must have come to Evarts in 1902." Next appears "a bill of sale for one dollar for the above property from Belle Robinson (apparently wife of George W. Robinson, who was too sick to travel following her husband's death), to a daughter, **Anne I. E. Robinson**, on the 9th day of May, 1906 at Red Lake County, Minnesota. On May 17th, 1906, Annie Robinson transferred property to her sister **Jessie E. Jackson**, who was already in Alberta, Canada. She was appointed personal administrator of George W. Robinson estate, until September 26, 1910, when an application for patent was made and registered in the **Jessie E. Jackson** name. It was transferred to her, July 1912 and on to her son, **Kenneth Jackson**, March 1926."

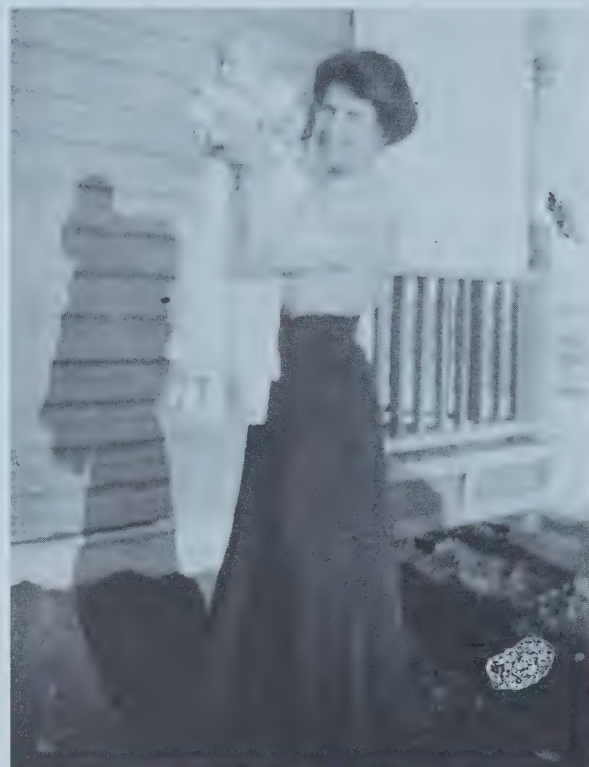
Information given the book committee indicates that George W. Robinson was a bricklayer by trade and ac-

tually started the first store before the Evarts hamlet was surveyed, also was first postmaster with mail being brought out from Red Deer. Mr. Robinson sold his store to Oswald M. Forhan in December, 1903.

Daughter, **Jessie** was married to **Cyrus Jackson**, their history will appear elsewhere in this book.

J. H. ROBINSON

J. H. (Jack) Robinson homesteaded N.W. 24-38-3-W5 on November 30, 1907. We understand he was an ex-city policeman from Toronto. After purchasing one of the stores in the village of Evarts, he carried on boxing bouts in the upstairs of the store. Jack brought the mail from Red Deer to Evarts, during the winter of 1906-07 he



Mrs. Jack Robinson holding John R. Craig.

lost several horses, their lungs were frozen from the severe below zero temperatures. Jack was married. After some years in the store business he sold out to Maddison and he and Mrs. Robinson moved to Victoria. Mrs. Robinson passed away, then Jack came back to Alberta and later married Mrs. Fleming who came from east of Red Deer. Mrs. Fleming had a son. The Robinsons then purchased a store in Benalto and resided there for several years selling out to Alf. Foster.

Mr. Robinson passed away after leaving the Benalto district.

DAVID M. (SCOTTY) RODGERS

Scotty Rodgers came to New York in 1911, to work in the largest mental hospital in the State of New York at that time. Scotty had taken his training as a mental nurse in Perthshire, Scotland, but was born in Montrose.

Later, he worked at the Brandon, Manitoba Mental Hospital. When the first War broke out in 1914, Scotty joined the Canadian Army in Arcola, Saskatchewan, transferring later to the Black Watch Highlanders. In 1923, he returned to Saskatchewan. When the Hanna family came to Alberta in 1934, Scotty accompanied them. He worked on various farms until the Second World War. During the first part of the war, he guarded bridges in British Columbia. Later he was employed in the recreation centre for soldiers at Vernon, British Columbia. This position was given the name of Assistant Manager but Scotty said "I'm nothing but a glorified janitor". After the War he returned to Alberta.

In 1950, Scotty bought a small house from Roy Neilsen of Benalto, and moved it on the farm of W. E. Bramall. Despite the loss of one eye, a war injury, Scotty was a meticulous housekeeper, a good cook, avid reader and a lover of almost every type of music. In 1967, he returned to his birthplace, but was unable to locate any relatives. Shortly after he returned from Scotland, he re-entered hospital and died in February 1968. Scotty is buried in the Field of Honor, Sylvan Lake Cemetery.

WILLIAM RUTSCHKE FAMILY

In 1933 William Rutschke, and Lydia Wambold were married at Olds, Alberta. In 1936, they moved from Olds to the N.W. 21-37-2-W5 in the New Centerville district. They purchased this land from the Canadian Pacific Railroad. With them, they brought their three oldest children, Tony, Lawrence, and Leslie. Their only daughter, Floreen, Allan, Danny, and Wayne were born while they lived on their farm. In 1953, N.W. 10-37-2-W5, and a portion of 9, was purchased from Jacob Stephensen.

The family grew up on the farm, and attended the New Centerville, Benalto, and Spruce View Schools.

In March of 1966, Bill, and Lydia sold their farm to the Skroki family, and with their youngest son, Wayne, moved to the town of Sylvan Lake. Wayne continued with his schooling in Sylvan Lake. Bill, and Lydia are presently residing at 4633-45 Street, in Sylvan Lake, Alberta.

Tony married Nicole Petre from Falher, in 1957. They reside in Grimshaw with their daughter Lisa. Their son, Wade, died in 1970.

Lawrence married Jean McKenzie-Grieve from the Cottonwood district south-west of Innisfail in 1958. They have two sons, Raymond, and Ronald, and live at Wetaskiwin.

Leslie married Elaine Rangen of Leslieville in 1963. They live with their son, Bradley, in the former Evarts store building.

Floreen married Richard Bogle of Calgary, in 1957. They have three children; William, Cathy, and Shane. They are residing in Prince George, British Columbia.

Allan married Marjorie Scott from the Dovercourt district in 1962. They live at Nordegg with their two children, Cheryl and Duane.

Danny married Shirley McKinlay from Innisfail in 1968. They have three children; Kenneth, Dwayne, and Denise. They live in Sylvan Lake.

Wayne married Doreen O'Hara from Spirit River in 1971. They live at Coaldale with their children, Crystal, and Darren.

LESLIE RUTSCHKE

Leslie married Elaine Rangen of Leslieville in 1963. We lived in Red Deer for two years and then we decided on country life. In 1965, we moved to the former Ostercamp farm buildings N.W. 12-38-3-W. 5, which we rented from Lloyd McNeil. We lived there until 1973.

Our son, **Bradley**, was born in 1969.

In November of 1973, we bought the former Evarts store building and lots from Mr. and Mrs. Zoakipny.

CLARENCE H. SANDS

Mr. Sands came from Eau Claire, Wisconsin and homesteaded at Evarts in 1906. He married Mabel Augusta Werner of Red Deer in 1909. They had four children born at Evarts. **Carlyle** who is at Rocky Mountain House, **Gertrude** who is married to Ellery Elliot, living and operating an upholstery shop in Vancouver, Washington, **Myrtle** who married Neilio Raivio at Rocky and operates a Pregnant Mare Urine Barn and guides and outfits. **John** was accidentally killed in 1952.

Clarence left the homestead in 1919, moving approximately 45 miles northwest of Rocky Mountain House on the Baptiste River, where he trapped and started guiding and outfitting big game hunters. He built a hunting cabin which he called the doctor's cabin, after some doctor clients from Fort Wayne, Indiana, who came up every year. The lakes where the cabin stood have since been officially named Doctor's Lakes.

He lost his wife Mabel in 1921. Later he married Loretta Hekol (nee Sales) of Rocky Mountain House, who was separated from her husband and had two boys, **Nelson** and **Prentiss**. Nelson passed away in 1952 and Prentiss was killed in the war in 1945. Later they had five children. **Sam** who married Marie Dix of Caroline, lives at Rocky Mountain House and worked as a guide, outfitter and cat operator. **Chester**, at Rocky Mountain House, who married Dorothy Barnes of Dovercourt, is guiding, outfitting and raises beef cattle. **Marion** lives on a farm at Westlock and was married to Melvin Martinson of Evergreen and later Bill Montgomery of Raven. **William**, married Florence Brown of Rocky Mountain House and works at Swan Hills, Oilfield Construction. **Larry**, at Barrhead, married Sharon Brought of Caroline. He works in construction and raises quarter horses. Mrs. Loretta Sands is living in Rocky Mountain House.

Clarence had a horse brand **CS** right thigh, which was transferred to his son Chester in 1953, who also has it registered as a cattle brand now.

ELLER KIRBY SCOTT

My jolly years in Evarts valley started June 1931, when I went to Bjorn Bjornson's to help in the house and outside. They had three small children. One of my first jobs was to fix the garden fence to keep the cows out. It was barb wire and an old bushwacker like me was used to rail fences. I never worked with it before, so cut my hand and still have the scar. They milked ten cows and lots of times I did it all by myself. My arms ached all summer. Twas the Icelandic picnic day and the roads got sort of washed out from all the rain. The river had risen and flooded so I got enough drift wood (bridge timbers) in a back water for wood for us all summer and part of the winter. The cows were on the other side of the river and

they had to go over by boat to milk them. I missed a few milkings. In those days, Markerville had a wonderful brass band. There wasn't any money anywhere but we had Sunday afternoon ball games. One or two nice days every summer, the Icelandic women had a wool washing over on the river by Mrs. Keys.

I had the pleasure of going to the one that summer, twas just like a picture from a far away land. All the women washing this wool in the river and in tubs by the river and piling it on the clean grass and hanging it in the bushes. The river was real wide and had rocks all across it — there was sort of a ford. One day in hay making time, I was all alone down by the river washing clothes. I had a fire-place down there so I didn't have to carry the water up the hill. I heard someone come in the yard. Here was a neighbor. He had broken the tongue out of his mowing machine and asked if Bjorn had one for him to borrow or could he put a new tongue in. I offered to help him. We went to the wood pile and got the straightest poplar pole, as near the size of a tongue as there was there. I took the axe and whittled the ends off while he took the old tongue out. He didn't know how to use a brace and bit so I drilled the holes and had him on his way with a cup of tea to boot, in just over an hour. When I finished milking one evening, here was this old long-legged horse and long-necked too, eating out of his granary, so I got the hammer and nails and a couple of old boards and had on this dirty old chore coat, going to nail up this hole and there came Mr. Staniforth, Bill and Jean to see if I wanted a job. I said, I guessed so. But I still couldn't see what good he could see in me in that condition. I went there, November 11, 1931.

I was an American and my folks talked that way and we were just plain pioneers from away back. Well, for me twas just like going to another planet. It took me weeks to understand what Mr. Staniforth or Uncle John said. At home we only used one plate and at Staniforths they used one for every course. John Anderson was the hired man and they were just finishing that beautiful big chicken house. Johnnie Robertson helped some also that first winter. We also had Bill Palmer from England helping. They were putting water into the henhouses and had to have quite a bit of help at all times cause the hens had to be trapped and let out every hour and that was one man's job alone. When they made the trench to put the water to the hen house, the hired man fell in the trench one day, with the egg basket and cracked the eggs. We laughingly said, I'll bet he fell in the ditch and after supper I sneaked down to the trench and sure enough there was about 100 broken eggs in the bottom of the ditch. The first winter, an elderly lady and I stayed at Staniforths while they went back to England. They had four kittens. Dood, Bill and Jean played with them all the time. These kittens got sores all over them, so had to be disposed of. We tried to get the men to do it and they wouldn't, so this lady said I had to do it. I put them in a sack and got a pail of water and pushed the sack down with a stick and they fought so much it made me sick. I just took them and chopped their heads off on the chopping block and hid them in the manure pile. Now I won't drown cats any more.

I had my first real Christmas there and a lot of other good ones after. One January, we got up and all the water pipes were frozen (we had water in the house from the

artesian well) and it was 35 below with a real strong wind. We had set yeast for bread the night before and it was chilled also. It never really raised and when baked looked like a yellow sponge and felt like a brick.

On June 23, 1933, we heard a storm coming and ran to pull dirt over some lettuce and rhubarb to save it. When the hail came it was like ducks eggs, then golf balls till the ground was covered.

John and Mr. Staniforth took their golf clubs out in the lawn and played golf. I was fit to be tied. It didn't seem to hurt the crops but sure wrecked the shingles on some houses. It hurt some calves but when the men looked at the young fryer chicks, they had to kill 155 of them and we cleaned them and had them all in cans by noon the next day. Down at Evarts, the storm was worse. We had a skating rink the last winter I was there and everyone tried to skate. I guess some succeeded, some didn't. There was always lots of good things to eat and stories to tell around the lunch circle. The birthday parties were always an event but didn't have too many, as time and weather didn't always permit. The Munro boys came a time or two with their old horse. It was over six miles. They were at school a lot and had to come all that way on that flat valley bottom. I really don't know how they ever stood it.

Our Sunday afternoons were always for fun times. In the summer when the kids were all small we went building wigwams and exploring all that bush. Once we went prospecting down in the field and Jean got dust in her eye so we called it gold dust and the tears soon cleared up. Mr. Cameron was the recognized vet for the district.

One morning, Mr. Robertson phoned up to say the teacherage was on fire. After the initial shock, Mr. Staniforth said, "What do you want me to do, come and make toast?" It's funny but a year later, the hired man shouted from the corrals that the big henhouse was on fire. We all said, "Make toast" and ran to see what we could salvage. Only got a few hens out and over 3,000 burnt with the big two storey fir building that had only been completed a short while before. In threshing time, everyone had to work double time.

Our threshing machine had its usual farms to thresh for. We always got an extra two or three field pitchers and some of them were unemployed drifters. Mr. Staniforth always took some sandwiches and coffee to give these men cause they could only work a couple of hours before playing out. There would be a few farmers that would come and help and get their threshing done for their wages.

It was just like a big party as far as I could see. Lots of work — up to five o'clock and not finished till nine-thirty or ten at night. There were about ten or twelve men and they usually were ten days threshing at home. The fall of 1933, we didn't finish threshing till June 6, 1934. Times were hard then and I wouldn't like to go back to another depression and all the things we didn't have.

SEIBEL FAMILY — Wilbert Seibel

We moved to the Evarts district from Crowfoot, ten miles east of Cluny, Alberta, in the spring of 1932. We lived first on the John Johnson's place, just north of Dave McNeil's, and then we moved to the A. P. Nielsen farm, which we rented from him. Mr. Nielsen lived in the



Seibel family and Jack Bond, 1932.

States when we rented from him. He had a hired man on the place they called "Missouri", and a helper whose name was Jack Bond. These men were both bachelors. Missouri went back to the United States with A. P. Nielsen, to work for him on his ranch, and Jack Bond stayed on with us for a year or so. I remember some of our neighbors were Mr. and Mrs. Howard, and a year or so later Pat and Myron Nielsen moved to where the Howards had been. North of these people were the Robertsons and the McBrides. I also remember John and Arthur Staniforth, and Ed Liddell. Dave and Sam Braton lived at Evarts with their mother, and across the street was Andy Stewart's little store. Peter Stewart also lived at Evarts then, and farmed land west of Evarts.

In 1939, my father passed away, and in 1941 my brother **Lawrence** and his family moved 16 miles west of Evarts, to Alhambra. We left Evarts in 1941. Lawrence is now living at Spillimacheen, British Columbia. My mother passed away in 1972, and my oldest brother **Henry** passed away in Red Deer in 1974. My **sister** and myself, **Wilburt**, live in Calgary, with our families.

ROY SELSTROM FAMILY

Roy was born in the Burnt Lake district, son of Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Selstrom. He lived around Evarts and Benalto for several years before he and his wife came to live with Sam and Dave Braton. He had helped his brother Carl with his grain cleaning machines for a number of years. Roy farmed the Braton land. They had two children, **Patsy** and **Craig**. Mrs. Selstrom was formerly Mrs. Willett, and prior to her marriage to Roy she lived in the buildings on SW 14-38-3-W5. She had a family consisting of **Les, Lorrienne, Lorne, Jackie, Robert, Helen, Phyllis, Sharon**, who became a nurse, **Frank, Alec, and Donnie**. The children attended school at Evarts and Benalto and some were members in the 4-H clubs.

Patsy is married and lives in Bashaw, Craig is employed at the airport in Penhold.

The Selstrom family left Evarts and moved to Benalto. Mrs. Selstrom passed away suddenly in 1972. Roy lives in Benalto.

BEN SEVEDY

Ben Sevedy farmed on the S.W. 16-38-2-W5, belonging to John Sjare for about four years. We assume he

came to this district in 1926. He was married with a little son **Lawrence**. Ben was a special friend of Isaac Bombach, who helped him in knowledge of farming, and loaned him any needed machinery. He is remembered as being owner of a lovely pair of black drivers, which in those days were not too plentiful. Usually the best plow horses were used to go to town. Ben Sevedy was an auctioneer, called square dances very well, and a good step-dancer. He was a professional wrestler at the age of eighteen. After leaving Evarts in about 1930, the Sevedy's moved to Vancouver where Ben went wrestling again, under the name of Benny Reeves. It was in a match in Seattle, that his back was badly injured, and consequently he passed away a year after this unfortunate event. It is not known from there what happened to his family.

SHERMAN SHULTZ

The Shultzs lived on SW 32-37-2-W5. They had four children, **Vanessa, Allan, Marvin** and **Roscoe**, who all attended school in Evarts in the school year of 1922.

FRANK AND ELLEN SIGURDSON — Written by Ellen Sigurdson

Frank married Ellen Tiihonen of the Marianne district, in 1953. After working in the oil fields until 1959, they purchased the New Centerville School that had been closed down for a number of years. They built on to the old school to make a modern home and started a dairy business. Frank got his schooling here, and even now, he still hangs his hat on the same hook that he did when he attended school. They settled here to farm the land that was the old Christian Sigurdson homestead.



Frank Sigurdson family: Frank, Ellen, Wayne, James, Brenda, Dale, Barry and Rodney.

A near tragedy happened soon after they moved to the farm. Frank noticed the dog looking down the well. He went to investigate, only to find that Ellen had fallen in while pumping a pail of water by hand. Although there were no broken bones, her injuries were serious enough for a six week stay in the hospital.

Frank and Ellen raised six children, five boys and one girl. **Wayne Franklin** is a plumber in Red Deer, **James Christian** is a mechanic in Innisfail, **Brenda Louise** is taking a Medical Secretary course at Red Deer College, **Dale Albert**, **Barry Dean**, and **Rodney Wade** attend Spruce View school and live at home on the farm.

TOM SIMONS

Tom lived and farmed SW 12-38-3-W5. He ran a blacksmith shop in the village of Evarts. His wife for many years ran a nursing home in Red Deer. Tom Simons was mail carrier and brought mail to Evarts by buggy and ol' white mare Nellie. Tom and friend Jerry Chapman lived together in Evarts.

JACK SIMPSON

Jack and his future brother-in-law, Scott Hastie, left Edinburgh, Scotland in 1911, for Canada. Both young men had finished school and served their apprenticeship as salesman before leaving Scotland to look for new opportunities. They travelled across the Dominion to Vancouver and found work there, but stayed only six months.

One day reading in a Vancouver paper of a store for sale at Evarts, Alberta, they decided to investigate the situation. After arriving in Red Deer by train, they were driven by the mail carrier, who had a wagon and team, to Evarts. Carried along with the mail, were groceries, hardware, baggage and anything else needed by the settlers. Jack and Scott bought the store from Sam and Donald Smith. They took along with it the duties of carrying the mail from Red Deer to Evarts three days a week, leaving for Red Deer, Monday, Wednesday and Friday and returning the next day.

In April, 1912, Kate Hastie arrived in Calgary from Edinburgh, Scotland. Her passage had luckily been switched from the ill-fated Titanic. On April 29, she and Jack Simpson were married in Calgary and in a few days returned with him to Evarts. The bride found very different conditions in her new home to those she left in Edinburgh. She said, had there been a station at Evarts and a train leaving it, she would have gone straight back to Scotland. But, the thought of driving back to Red Deer over 26 miles of rough muddy road in a wagon was too much, so she settled down and came to like the rugged life in Alberta. Very well, can Mrs. Simpson remember the first 24th of May she celebrated in Canada. It was held in McMillan's field, just down the road from Evarts store.

The entertainment was horse racing, bucking contests, foot racing, jumping and at night, a dance in the school house. Mrs. Simpson recalled many of the names of families that were at the celebration; Wright brothers, the Walkers, Jacksons, Macdonnell brothers, Armstrongs, Husseys, Chatwoods, Barhans, Craigs, Bratons, Whittles, Jones, Giselmans, Hovens, Robinsons, Scott Hastie, Smiths, Chief MacDonald and many others. Mr. Simpson had to leave the picnic late in the afternoon. It was mail day and he had to be at the post

office to receive the mail from Red Deer. Mrs. Simpson went with him, and on the way they saw three fights. It was a new experience for the young bride and somewhat frightening. When she got home, she went in the house and locked the door, but it was not long until her husband was knocking at the door, asking for the sticking plaster to put on the wounds of those who had been settling their differences with knives and fists.

At one time, Jack had a contest going at the store. When a customer bought groceries, he was given a key and if the key fit a kitchen cabinet, which was the prize, it could be taken home by the lucky customer. However, the proper key was never turned in, so he sold tickets on the cabinet and donated the proceeds to the Red Cross. Mrs. P. N. Cameron won the cabinet and it is still in the house today.

In 1916, Jack Simpson saw a future in the new place called Benalto. He built the first store and was the first postmaster there. He lived just north of the town. He later built a second store in Benalto. He also acted as agent for the Pocock Grain Co., living in a house on the east side of Benalto, until his health failed. In January of 1937, Jack Simpson passed away and is buried at Benalto. He was a Free Mason and before leaving his homeland of Scotland was Master Mason of the Waverly Lodge in Edinburgh.

After his death, Mrs. Simpson and their two sons, **Jim** (now deceased) and **Gordon**, ran the store and lived above it. Mrs. Simpson returned to Scotland with her two sons in 1919, but she had not desire to live there anymore and so she moved to Sylvan Lake in 1939, where she remained until her passing.

JOHN SJARE FAMILY — written by Clara Sjare

John Sjare came to Canada and the Evarts district, December of 1904, from Stroughton, Wisconsin, to visit an uncle, Andrew Faaberg and decided to stay. He had left his native Norway in June, 1900. In 1906 he came to make his home with the Martin Loken family and worked in partnership on that farm for some years. In 1915 he married Clara Loken and farmed the S.W. 16-38-2-W. 5.

Meanwhile he had also proved up a homestead in the Withrow district which he later sold, then bought the S.W. 9-38-2-W. 5 and cleared and farmed it for several years, later selling it to Staniforths. Then came a period of illness and he lived in Sylvan Lake for two years. While living in the Evarts district, John served for many years on the school board, helped build the first telephone line. All the land clearing was done by hand with axe and grub hoe. The land breaking was done with a wood-beam breaking plow pulled by horses and often oxen. The house on his home place was of wood frame construction and was built by himself. In the early years there were no taxes. You simply worked at road work, clearing the road allowance, ditching and placing corduroy over the bog and slough areas. John did his part often working as foreman. The corduroy was simply poles placed close together cross-wise over the road and covered with earth and pulled into place with horses and Fresno scrapers. There were many kinds of weather as there is today. The first severe hail storm occurred in 1905 and the winter of 1906-1907 was particularly severe, but there was less drifting as there was more bush.



Clara and John Sjare.

Four children were born, three of them at Evarts; **Elmer**, who married Lily Holm, is now living at Sooke, on Vancouver Island, British Columbia, and works as a mechanic with British Columbia Department of Highways; **Mary**, married Lloyd Jones and now lives in Red Deer and teaches school; **Bernard**, who married Heather Hodgson and farms east of Sylvan Lake; **John**, married Joy Sorenson, lives in Winnipeg and his work is with International Business Machines.

The close neighbors in the pioneer days were Seivert Lindelin, the Walker family, Mannerfeldt and Johnson families, the Bertheson family were also close friends. A little later Ed Liddell and John Holsworths came to the neighborhood. Walton Slack was also one of the early settlers.

John Sjare left the Evarts district in 1926, spent two years in Sylvan Lake, then moved to the Norma district, east of Sylvan Lake where he farmed until his passing, November 20, 1957.

ELMER SJARE — SW 16-38-2-W5

Elmer was born January 29, 1916. He was raised in the Norma district where he got his schooling. Elmer married Lily Holm, of Eckville, and at this time Elmer and Lily moved to the Sjare farm in the Evarts district, living there for many years. Elmer later worked for the federal government in the North West Territories, before moving to Victoria, British Columbia. Here Elmer worked for the British Columbia Public Works Department until his passing in 1974.

There are four children, **Sharon, Kathleen, Gerald and Gaylord**. Lily passed away in December of 1976.

BERNARD SJARE

Bernard married Heather Hodgson on June 16, 1956. He farms in the Sylvan Lake district. With the passing of John Sjare in November of 1957, Bernard took over the homeplace in the Norma district. There are three children: **Becky**, born April 25, 1958. She has become one of Canada's promising athletes in track and field, **Holly**, born May 15, 1960, is also interested in sports and show-dogs, **Michael**, born March 16, 1962, a chosen son, and interested in sports and music.

SMITH BROTHERS — SE 6-38-2-W5

Donald Smith was the second son in a family of four boys and three girls. He came west to Evarts from his home in Ontario, with a Mr. Jealous, an Englishman, who became his partner in one of the larger ranches of the day in this area. The date of Donald's arrival is not clear, but it was within a year of 1903, as in January of 1903, the Evarts school minutes mention Mr. Jealous.

It is hard to visualize Evarts at the turn of the century. I am told, the Medicine River Valley was much like a prairie. A few willow dotted the "flats" and lots of grass and low bushes grew. It was the first land in the Evarts district to be settled, because it gave immediate pasture to stock, making a quick return from any money spent on a homestead. I suppose this is what attracted Donald Smith and Mr. Jealous to the ranch-site, which was two miles south of the hamlet of Evarts, to start a horse and cattle ranch.

A brother, Sam Smith, ventured west to Evarts a couple of years later than Donald, staying at the ranch with his brother, and after Mr. Jealous' departure, Sam



Elmer, Mary, Bernard Sjare.



Donald Smith.

became Donald's new partner. Mr. Jealous returned to the east, joining the R.C.M.P. Later still, a brother, Oliver joined the boys for a short time. At this time the Smith brothers purchased a store at Evarts and Sam became the proprietor. In 1910, he married Margaret Braton and moved to Red Deer a short time after, selling the store in 1912.

The Smith brothers were most active in community affairs. They donated generously to the church by giving an organ, a Model T Ford car for the minister's use, and also making possible a quantity of lumber. Smith brother's had one of the first gramophones in the area. It has been recorded that a special function at the school house was held, to demonstrate the gramophone. They were also able to make their own records in wax cylinders. This was done at parties at the ranch. Donald Smith was especially interested in baseball in his bachelor days, and was one of the team at the Evarts sports day ball tournament. When Benalto Fair came into being, the Smith brothers were interested and served on the Fair board for a number of years.

Haying time was very busy. Six to eight mowers, two or three rakes, old-fashioned buck-poles with a team of horses at either end, and two or three men on the stack, could put up a lot of hay in one day. There were many men employed on the ranch, which by this time consisted of nine quarters of land. It is still possible to meet a few of these men and reminisce with them about the early days on the Smith ranch. Many mentioned the big beefsteaks that were common fare. Billy Woof, with his ox-team, contracted the breaking of one quarter of land on the ranch. Ox teams at Evarts were quite as common as horses for power. Donald Smith was however, instrumental in bringing in a lot of horses to Evarts. These were wild horses from the Caribou country in British Columbia. They were rounded up and taken to the station at Ashcroft, British Columbia, where they were shipped to Innisfail. Here the boys from the ranch, drove them from Innisfail across country. I understand this was a sight to see. A rider led the way, and perhaps a couple of riders behind kept the restless animals on the move, so they wouldn't scatter. We understand, they were not big animals, but they were tough. A few years later, big Percherons and Clydesdales were brought to the district only to fall prey to the dreaded "swamp Fever", while the bronses and cayuses were not affected. Some of the horses brought to the Smith ranch were sold by auction. It must have much resembled out present day rodeos, as each bronco was roped and ridden to demonstrate how tame

they were. Then the bidding started and the new owner was boss from there, if he could manage it. It was also learned that a large number of the horses used on the construction of the railways through this area came from the Smith brothers ranch.

About 1911, a girl, Lucille, from Atwood, Ontario, married Donald, coming west to the Evarts district to stay on the ranch for a time, before moving to Red Deer. Their daughter Mary, states that it was her mother who named the ranch "Island Ranch", simply because the winding river, outdoing itself close by the building site, formed an island. The ranch was always an impressive set of buildings nesting on the north bank of the Medicine River. The old farmhouse was very modern for its day. Smiths never grain farmed. They were known to have 1400 acres in hay. Mr. Earl Donnelly hauled a lot of hay to the siding to be shipped to railway camps, from the ranch.

It was related to us, that the late Macgregor Parsons visited the ranch as a boy, spending some time there in the summer. He was persuaded by one of the hands to get up on a horse. This was something that Macgregor had never done before. The hand neglected to tell him the horse was not broken and it gave him a bad time before he was bucked off. Ever afterwards, he was afraid of horses.

After moving to Red Deer, Donald still managed the Smith ranch for many years. Later he rented the land to numerous farmers, until it was finally sold in 1944. Donald Smith passed away some years later in Red Deer. Mrs. Smith passed away in 1974.

There were two daughters; **Jean**, who became a nurse, serving as district health nurse during the 1940's. She now has returned to Ontario. **Mary** (Smith) Johns, was noted for her musical ability. She now lives at Solano Beach, California.

SAM SMITH

Sam was one of the often-spoke of Smith brothers. He was born and raised in Ontario and arrived at the Island Ranch at Evarts a year or so after his brother Donald and Mr. Jealous had located in approximately 1903. Sam lived at the ranch for a short while with his brother until 1904 when they decided to buy the store at Evarts. Here we have conflicting records, as one report gives the previous owner of the Smith brother's store as Ron Foulkes, and another as J. H. Robinson. It was Sam Smith who was designated to be the store-keeper, and Donald chose to be the rancher. Across the street from the store, was the Braton farm and residence and so it is easy to assume that meeting his future wife Margaret Braton was quite easy. Margaret and Sam were married in 1910, moving to Red Deer shortly after, in 1912, to make their home there, where they became involved with other business ventures. They had four children, two girls and two boys.

The "flu" epidemic had been raging in Red Deer as elsewhere and it was in 1918 that Sam succumbed to it, leaving his wife Margaret and the four children. He is buried in the Red Deer Cemetery. Margaret later became Mrs. Curtis and since has been widowed a second time. One son passed away in 1939 and the other three children of Sam Smith are today living in the states of Idaho and Oregon.

Sam had a brother, Oliver, who joined his brothers on the ranch. He stayed for only a short time at Evarts, leaving to go to Calgary for a time and later to locate on land at Provost, where he became a noted grain farmer. Oliver (since deceased), has two children living at Provost. His wife lives in Calgary.

RAY AND HILDA SMITH

Ray was born in Vancouver, British Columbia. He married Hilda Wecker in Nelson, her home at that time. They lived in Cluny for a short while and then worked in Calgary, coming to the Evarts district and living for the summer at Walter Hanna's.

They had three children before coming here, **Raymond**, **Eileen** and **Norman**. The other three were born on the S.W. 20-37-2-W5, **Donald**, **Mabel Jean** and **Joyce**. Raymond is a plumber living in Burnaby, British Columbia and is married and has four boys. Eileen married Allen Lechlet and they farm at Vegreville. Norman married and lives in Edmonton. He runs a gravel truck and has two boys and two girls. Donald is married and lives at St. Albert where he farms and runs a bus. Mabel Jean married Jim Meshaw and lives at Whitelaw Alberta. They have three girls. Joyce is married and lives in Ontario. They have four children.

Hilda died in 1962. Ray now lives on his own place at Loyett, Alberta.

Ray was always active in school affairs, Hilda was a member of Happy Hill Ladies Club and all the children had played active parts in sports of the community.

OSCAR AND MARTHA SODERQUIST

Oscar and Martha Soderquist farmed at Irvine, Alberta, and came to the Evarts district in 1924, accompanying the Guttrud family who were old friends from southern Alberta. They had two boys, **Elmer**, born at Medicine Hat, and **Earnest**, born at Irvine. The Soderquists lived first on the S.E. 20-38-2-W5. After a short while, they moved to the Woods farm which was the S.W. 20-38-2-W5, buying it from Woods.

Oscar was a carpenter, and one building in the district which is his credit, is the barn which he built for Ed Liddell.

A series of tragic events then followed in the Soderquist family. Oscar became ill and passed away about four years after coming to Evarts. A few months later, Mrs. Soderquist passed away also, leaving two young boys alone. An auction sale was held and after this the boys were taken to relatives. Earnest was serving in the services during World War II, when he took ill with tuberculosis, and passed away in Victoria, British Columbia. Elmer now lives at Duncan, British Columbia, is married, and has one daughter Norma, and a son Don. Elmer has two grandchildren.

LEONARD AND ERNA SOERD

Leonard (Leo) and Erna, with their small daughter of five months, **Doreen**, arrived on the farm S.E. 26-38-3-W5, on May 6, 1936 as renters, the owner of the land being a Mr. Black. Leo came to Canada from his native land, Estonia, Europe, landing in the Eckville north district on February 14, 1927 and Erna was born in the Medicine Valley Estonian district north of Eckville, where she was raised and lived until moving to the Evarts district. They bought this farm, also S.W. 26-38-3-W5 of

the Blue Bell district, in 1939, from Mr. Black and in 1945, they bought the S.W. 25-38-3-W5 from Mrs. Lucy Opp.

A daughter, **Leona Jean** was born in 1941, and a son, **John Terrance** in 1942, who died in 1947. In 1954, a daughter, **Debra Dianne** was born. Doreen graduated from Mount Royal College, Calgary and received her secretarial diploma. She married George Heath of Eckville in 1958 and they are living in Calgary and have two children, Valerie and Leonard. Jean took Medical Laboratory Science and received her Bachelor of Science Degree from the University of Alberta in Edmonton. She married William A. Brown of Ontario in 1963 and are living in the Benalto district on the S.W. 25-38-3-W5, which they bought from Jean's parents in 1966. Debra graduated with a Bachelor Degree in Social Work from the University of Calgary. She is counselling in the Baker Memorial Children's Hospital in Calgary. Debra married James Murray of Prince Albert, Saskatchewan in 1975 and they are presently living in Calgary. Leonard and Erna are still living on the farm and are active in farming, Erna has also been driving school bus for the County of Lacombe for the past ten years.

E. SOLOMON

The Solomon family had their home on N.E. 10-38-3-W5. They had two children who attended the Evarts school namely, **Andrew** and **John**. The Solomon quarter was purchased by Ed. Wadson, then on to present owner John R. Craig.

THE STANIFORTHS — ARTHUR AND JOHN — written by John

My father came to Canada in the spring of 1910 and bought a farm at Aldersyde, south of Calgary. This farm was operated for many years by an older brother, Harry, assisted for some years by a cousin from England. Father only came out in the summer time for some years, returning to his cotton business in Manchester, England, for the rest of the year. In 1912, he brought Arthur, an older sister, Florence and myself out for the summer. Probably we are lucky to have been here at all, as father had booked passages on the Titanic, but owing to the fact that there was a coal miner's strike on in England at the time and no trains were running, he had to change to a sailing from Liverpool, which was near our home.



Staniforth's arrival at Evarts, 1919.



Staniforth family; R. A. (Dood), Bill and Arthur, Alwilda, Pony, Peggy, Jean and Janet. 1941.

My sister and I went back to England in the fall of 1912 but Arthur stayed till the start of the First World War. After serving in the war, Arthur bought Section 8-38-2-W5, from a layer, W. E. Payne, in Red Deer. There were no buildings and only 75 acres broken at the time. My father, mother, sister, Sally, Arthur and myself arrived at Benalto by train August 29, 1919, bringing a carload of horses, a wagon, etcetera, from south of Calgary. Two men named Wiggins and Joe Rocek, drove us down and we set up a tent and camped for the night. Douglas Walker came walking by and offered us some camp beds and other needed articles. The next day, after we got the wagon and horses, we drove around the farm to find a location for the future home. We got most of the house and barn built before bad weather set in and also a well drilled. It turned out to be a flowing well, and it still flows.

Father, Mother and I returned to England, January 1920, my sister kept house for Arthur for the rest of the winter. In the late fall of 1920, Arthur went to England where he married Maggie (Peggy) McCreadie, daughter of a sheep raiser near Tunbridge in Kent. They returned in the spring and resided on the farm until Arthur passed away in 1973. They had five children, who all attended school at Evarts. **Janet** of Cobble Hill, British Columbia married Earle Farris and they have two sons. **Alice** (Pony), now Mrs. Doug Traill, of White Rock, British Columbia, has three sons and one daughter. **Robert A.**, of Evarts married Beverley Patten of Turner Valley, **William** of Evarts married Queenie Ford of Chinook, who passed away in 1972 and later married Thelma Jarvis of Eckville. **Jean** married William Smith of the Eckville district and has four daughters. Peggy Staniforth now resides in British Columbia with her daughter, Alice.

The young people of Evarts community have spent many evenings and afternoons playing hockey and skating on a skating rink, the Staniforths made on their lawn for many years. Mrs. Staniforth always had hot chocolate and goodies for the hungry youngsters.

Over the years, Arthur was president of the Evarts Telephone Company, was a member of the school board and was active in the Evarts Curling Club and other com-

munity activities. He was also a member for many years of the Masonic Lodge. During the Second War he was instructor for the local Air Cadets. Mrs. Staniforth worked diligently for the Red Cross. She also enjoyed singing and did so at many concerts. Their daughter, Alice, was in the women's division of the Navy and Janet was accepted as a radio operator for the forestry department.

I attended school in Calgary for some years in the early 1920's spending the summer in the Okanagan, where my parents were then living. In 1927, I came to Evarts to stay and farmed with Arthur till 1938. I bought the S.W. 18-38-2-W5, which was Sam Braton's homestead. In 1939, I married Alwilda Wells and except for three years in the Navy during the Second War, have resided here ever since.

To show the difference in conditions from 1938, till now, when we built our house that fall, John Hillman, carpenter in chief and one of the best in the district, charged 35 cents per hour. The assistants got 25 cents per hour.

Some of the employee's who worked on the Staniforth farm have been: John Anderson, Bill Palmer, Harold Scott, John Robertson, Jim Davidson, Jack Friesen, Bob Greenway, and Bob and Dennis Bramall.

ROBERT ARTHUR STANIFORTH AND FAMILY

Robert, known to his friends as Dood, was born January 6th, 1926, the eldest son of Arthur and Peggy Staniforth. He lived on the home place, N.W. 8-38-2-W5 and attended school at Evarts and Benalto before going into the army in February 1944. He trained at Brandon and Shilo before being sent to England. He was being flown to Oldenburg, Germany, in the 14th Field Artillery Regiment, when the cease-fire was declared. He remained in Germany until April of 1946, in an occupational force. On returning home, he bought S.E. 20-38-2-W5 and S.W. 21-28-2-W5 through the Veterans Land Act.

In December, 1949, he married Beverley Patten in Turner Valley. Bev was the only daughter of Harry and Alta Patten and had attended both public and high school in Turner Valley before working for Royalite Oil Company and later Imperial Oil in Calgary. After Dood and Bev were married, they lived on the home place where he worked with his father. **Robert**, was born in September, 1951, but lived only fifteen days. **Linda** was born in November, 1952 and **Carol** in November, 1953, so life was busy and interesting. A son, **Craig**, was born in July, 1956 and completed the family.

Linda attended the last full year of school at Evarts with Mrs. Dorothy Periche as teacher and after only three weeks of school the following year, Carol's first, the Evarts school was closed and both girls went to Benalto to school. All three children took their public schooling at Benalto and high schooling at Sylvan Lake.

In 1963, the family built a home on S.W. 21-38-2-W5 and spent eleven happy years there. Arthur Staniforth passed away in 1973 and after Mrs. Staniforth moved to the coast, Dood sold his half section to Reubon Redelback of Brooks and moved back to the home place, where he now resides.

Dood is presently grain farming and spends most of his time working on machinery. Bev has been interested in community affairs and has been active in the Evarts



R. A. (Dood), Craig, Bev, Carol, and Linda Staniforth.

Community Club, 4-H Clothing Club and the Benalto Agricultural Society. Linda attended the Red Deer College for two years, taking a Business Administration course and worked in Red Deer and Edmonton. She is now employed at the University of Alberta Administration Department as a computer technician. She is very interested in arts and handicrafts and has used her 4-H Clothing Club training to good advantage. Carol took a Registered Nurses training at the University of Alberta Hospital. In 1974, she married Wayne Ramsay of R.R. No. 1, Red Deer and lives on a farm in the Ridgewood district. She nursed for two years at the Eckville Hospital before they were blessed with a son, Steven James, October 3, 1976. Carol enjoyed her 4-H Clothing Club training and was always interested in midwiving cows and sows and missed the farm when she was in Edmonton. Craig, attended two years of schooling at the Red Deer College, working on a Bachelor of Arts Degree and is presently working for a year before returning to further his education. His aim is a Masters Degree in Psychology. His hobbies are writing poetry and playing drums in a local band. The family is known for their interesting and hilarious mealtime conversations which are still enjoyed when they are together.

BILL STANIFORTH

Bill attended Evarts school the first nine years of his school career, later finishing his high school in Red Deer. In 1945 he enrolled at Calgary Technical School, taking a course in mechanics.

During the early years of the war, Air Cadets were formed in Benalto, with Arthur Staniforth as one of the instructors. Bill was a member.

After working out at various jobs, Bill returned to the farm the family had purchased from Jensens in 1946. This land had been homesteaded by Donald Smith in the early 1900's. In 1912, the Robertsons bought it and lived on it until they sold it to Donald Blair in 1922. At this time they moved a house on to this quarter SW-4-38-2-W5, from E-32-37-2-W5. This house was moved in two sections by 24 horses. It was built in the 1890's, and was

Bill's home from 1952 to 1962, when a new house was erected.

In 1952 Bill married the former Queenie Ford of Chinook, who had come to teach at Evarts. Prior to coming to Evarts, Queenie taught at a school east of Bowden, Morrin, Three Hills, Didsbury, and Condor. She was active in the community Club and Benalto Royal Purple. Queenie was deceased in 1972. They had three children.

Gordon began his schooling at Evarts. As the school closed down the year he began, he was taken by bus with the rest of the pupils to Benalto, and later to Sylvan Lake. After completing his grade twelve, Gordon joined the R.C.A.F. and took one year at University in Calgary. He is presently stationed in Namao.

Pat took her education in Benalto and Sylvan Lake and went on to Olds School of Agriculture to take a secretarial course. She is presently employed at the Court House in Red Deer.

Joan also took her schooling in Benalto and Sylvan Lake, and continued on to Olds. After completing her secretarial course, she was employed at the Department of Agriculture in Red Deer. She married Ralph Smith of Eckville in 1976. Both girls were very active in 4-H projects.

In 1974 Bill married the former Thelma Jarvis of Red Deer, whose father, Bill Palm, along with his parents came from Butte, Montana in 1905. Until they opened their own post-office in 1916, they trudged the many miles on foot to get their mail and supplies from Evarts. It is known they carried a 50 pound bag of flour plus a ten pound bag of sugar, etcetera on their back, the fifteen miles home over what was mostly a footpath. Thelma has one son, **Rhys**, who is employed overseas, and three daughters **Rhonda** (Eckville), **Rene** (Calgary) and **Lynne** (Rocky Mountain House).

In the middle sixties, Bill got his pilot's license and built an airstrip on his property. The airstrip is presently registered.

CLYDE STAUFFER FAMILY — written by the late Dollie Stauffer

After living twenty-five years on the dry prairie between Sibbald, Alberta and Alsask, Saskatchewan, Clyde and myself, decided to look for a new location, as we were dried out year after year, resulting in no feed for our livestock.

In 1934, the Wells brothers, the Herschel Moyers and Norman Stewart all of Alsask, Saskatchewan spent ten days camping in the Red Deer Auto Court, driving out every day looking for land. The Wells brothers, were successful in locating that same fall on the Island Ranch, then owned by Donald Smith. Subsequently the next fall of 1935, we located on the Frank Jackson farm consisting of Section 1-38-3-W5 and N.W. 6-38-2-W5. We resided here for thirty-two years. We arrived on the tenth of November, twenty below zero with five carloads of livestock and settlers effects, landing at Elspeth siding by Canadian National Railroad freight.

Our first home was an old 'made-liveable' frame dwelling. I am not aware of who built it, but we lived in it for eleven happy years.

There were four children in our family, Gerald, Doreen, Russel and Murray. Our children attended the Evarts school from November 1935 till about 1952.



Frank Jackson, later Clyde Stauffer farmstead, 1936.

Gerald married Jean Hall of Acadia Valley, Alberta. They reside in Calgary with their two children, Roy and Linda.

Doreen married Clifford Hillman of Evarts, Alberta, and reside on Clifford's farm. They have three children; Gary, Beverley and Greg.

Russel married Marian Gefle of Eckville, and they and their two children, Judy and Terry, reside in Calgary.

Murray married Marjorie Doupe of Wetaskiwin, and they reside on the home place with their four children, Ricky, Sandra, Stacey and Dwane.

Our near neighbours were Alec Duncan, J. Gowans, Lloyd and Langton Wells and Mother Wells, Kenneth Jackson, Harvey Jackson, Frank Cuddehey, Dave Larratt, the Braton's and Andrew Stewart and family.

Clyde was chairman of the board of directors of the Eckville Rural Electrification Association which the Evarts district is a part of. He was also president of the Alberta Union of Rural Electrification since its beginning, and president of the Benalto Agricultural Society, also Stampede manager. He was present at the time Mr. Stewart's store and home burned down at Evarts. Also present when the late Mr. James Leithead was drowned in flood water at the Evarts bridge.

He has been an auctioneer for forty years, but his first sale in the Evarts district was for the late Frank Jackson in September 1935. Many sales were conducted in the west country after that thru the years.

To illustrate just how things were in the 'dirty thirties' in Sibbald-Alsask county, Clyde relates the story of an auction sale he conducted in 1935. The man was one of the good farmers of the district, he recounted. His buildings were well kept, he had good equipment, even power machinery, good cattle and horses. He booked, the sale with me item by item, including the farm and buildings, all fenced and cross-fenced, with 200 acres of summerfallow. There were 640 acres in the entire farm. I asked if there was any reserve on anything. He replied there was no reserve whatever. The taxes were all paid and he was willing to transfer the title for the land to the new owner at his expense. Sale day came. There was a large crowd — mostly spectators. "Fortunately" con-



Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Stauffer and family, 1966. Back row, l. to r. — Linda, Jean, Gerald, Russel, Terry, Marion, Judy, Clifford, Doreen, Gary, Beverley. Front row — Roy, Dollie, Clyde, Sandra, Marge, Stacey, Murray, Greg, on the floor, Ricky.

tinued Clyde, two used machinery buyers showed up. I was able to sell everything at a price. After all the loose ends were sold, including livestock. I offered the farm and all the buildings, fences, etcetera. After trying I received not a single bid. I had a conference with the owner. "The owner said, "All right sell the buildings one at a time" I did just that. I even sold the ice house, the toilet, the windmill, all the fences, the barn, house, every building. "Then the owner said, 'Now sell the land! After a lot of talking, twisting and turning one man hollered; Ten cents an acre. "The owner looked pleased and gave me the nod. I sold 640 acres of land, including 200 acres of summerfallow for 64 dollars. Several years later Clyde conducted an auction sale near Eckville. A stranger came to him before the sale started and asked if he would sell for him that day, four teams of horses and harness. After assuring Clyde that he owned the horses and there was

nothing against them, Clyde consented to auction them after the owner's sale was finished. "While making settlement for the horses afterwards the stranger said, "Clyde, you don't seem to know me." I turned in a very apologetic manner and said, 'I feel I should know, but I am beat. You will have to tell me your name. 'His reply was; 'You should remember me. You sold me 640 acres of land for ten cents an acre in 1935. I farmed that land for several years and lost my shirt. 'To me, this illustrates the dirty thirties better than any other event I can relate.

We attended church and Sunday School at the Presbyterian Church at Evarts. I was superintendent for the Sunday School for two years, until the polio epidemic prohibited all public gatherings for children. I was also a member of the Ladies Aid. Fowl suppers, community club suppers were held, also picnics were held yearly at Hillman's every summer. There was curling on the one-sheet rink at Evarts. Also many Christmas concerts held thru the years without a miss. There was an extremely bad snow storm in March 1951, bull sale week in Calgary, which blocked every road and highway in the district and roads remained blocked for nearly a week.

I am a member of the Benalto Baptist Church, member of the Benalto Baptist Mission Circle and have been a member of the Evarts Community club since its beginning.

Clyde and I celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary in 1969.

We are semi-retired and for the last number of years have spent the winters in Arizona, United States and Victoria, British Columbia.

Note: Dollie Stauffer passed away in August, 1974.

Mr. Stauffer spends his winters in Victoria, British Columbia.

Some of the employee's who have worked on our farm have been: Herman and Jennie Luymus and family, (now living in Lacombe) Philip Mundt, Archie and Willard Philips, Nels (Yngve Brynedal) from Gagnef, Sweden, Helena Kovach, Lucy Vick, Clara Patterson, Helen Wilson and Mary Schmidet were some of the women who worked in the house.

G. V. STAUFFER

Gerald Victor, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Stauffer, was born at Alsask, Saskatchewan on March 11, 1922. He attended school at Alsask, Westside, Evarts and Benalto. For two years he took farm mechanics at the Provincial Institute of Technology at Calgary, Alberta. He was married to Jean Hall of Acadia Valley, Alberta. Their family consisted of two children: **Roy Gerald** and **Linda Joyce**. After 25 years he was divorced and married Marjorie McTavish of Calgary. Gerald has his Ministry of Transport License of Airframe and Power-pack Engineer. He also has his commercial pilot license. At present he is an air-craft maintenance engineer at his own business called "Stauffer Aero" at Calgary.

Roy married Veronica Wambeck of High River. They have one daughter and reside in Calgary. Roy is employed in his father's air-craft business.

Linda married Gerry Lamb of Ponteix, Saskatchewan on June 24, 1972. Both are employed by Mobil Oil in Calgary. They reside with their two sons, Troy and Stephen in Calgary.

RUSSEL STAUFFER

Russel Dell, second son of Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Stauffer was born at Alsask, Saskatchewan on September 17, 1929. He attended school at Evarts and Red Deer. He also went to Calgary and attended the Provincial Institute of Technology. On January 8th, 1952 he married Marion Gefle of Eckville. They have two children: **Judith Marie** and **Terrance Dell**. After farming a few years Russel was employed at Whitehorse as a trucker. At present his occupation is mainly driving for Greyhound Bus Lines out of Calgary, but he also has his private pilots license and is a licensed aircraft maintenance engineer. He has a chartered aviation service at Medicine Hat, called Bar XH Aviation Limited.

Judy married Vernon Payne of Olds, in August of 1976 and is presently teaching school at Strathmore. Vernon is attending the University of Calgary.

Terry works for his father's air-craft business at Medicine Hat, Alberta.

THE MURRAY STAUFFER FAMILY

Murray Stauffer, was born at Innisfail, Alberta, and has resided on N.E. 1-38-3-W. 5 all of his life. He is the youngest son of Clyde and Dollie Stauffer. Murray attended school at Evarts and Red Deer, and then went to Calgary, to further his education at Calgary Technical school, where he took farm mechanics. While attending school, he was an active member of the Benalto Calf Club and The Happy Hill Woodpeckers club.

On February 11, 1960, Murray married Marjorie Doupe, at the First United Church in Wetaskiwin, Alberta. Marge was born at Wetaskiwin and lived with her parents, Milton and Beatrice Doupe, who operated a mixed farm ten miles southeast of Wetaskiwin. She received her education at a country school called "Cherry Grove", then high school at Wetaskiwin. After graduating, she attended The Technical School for Nursing-Aides, in Calgary, and graduated as a Certified Nursing Aide. While attending school, she took an active part in the 4-H beef calf club and Shorthorn beef breeding club. At present she is an active member of the Evarts Community Club, Senior choir of the Presbyterian Church of Sylvan Lake, and involved with school and 4-H activities.

We have a family of four children; **Ricky**, born in 1961, received his schooling at Benalto and is presently attending Senior High School at Sylvan Lake. He is a member of the Benalto 4-H beef club, Sylvan Lake high school curling club and helps with the farming operation at home. He won the grade nine scholarship for Evarts, in 1976.

Sandra, born in 1963, attended school in Benalto and is presently attending junior high school at Sylvan Lake. She belongs to the Benalto 4-H beef club and the Evarts 4-H clothing and crafts club. She was the efficiency winner in the clothing club in 1975. Piano lessons and participating in all school sports keeps her busy.

Stacey, born in 1965, attends school at Benalto. He is a member of the Benalto 4-H beef and horse club. He enjoys riding his horse 'Spider' and has won many trophies and ribbons. In 1976, he started to ride steers in Amateur rodeos and received 2nd prize in the Eckville rodeo.

Dwane, born in 1970, attends school in Benalto.

Murray and Marge, along with their family, own and operate Stauffer Farms Limited. We raise and produce registered Hereford cattle and have an annual production sale every November.

In 1972, Murray and Marge, combined a business and pleasure trip and visited England, Wales, Sweden and Switzerland. We had a very enjoyable time and one which we shall always remember.

We are both active members of the Benalto Agricultural Society, Benalto Curling Club, Canadian Hereford Association and the Alberta Hereford Association.

Some of the employees who have worked on our farm have been: Edgar Ferguson, Innisfail, Alberta, who worked with us for 11 years; Ken Cox, Camrose, Alberta; Michael Thomas, Wales, Great Britain; Olie and Andy Gustafsson, Sweden and George Stephen, Magrath, Alberta.

MURRLE STEELE FAMILY

Murrle Steele was born in Yates Centre, Kansas in 1909, coming to Canada at the age of thirteen. He lived at several points in Saskatchewan, then in 1935 he married Madeleine Hall, whose parents lived at Evarts. In 1936 they came to Evarts and the first fall worked at the Frank Cuddihey and William McPherson farms. After harvest Murrle found employment on the John Watson farm. There were three men there, at that time, Alex Grant, Alex Lackie and Murrle.

In July 1939, Murrle took ill and spent the next eighteen months in the hospital in Edmonton. Their family had grown to three boys, and they lived in Benalto. Times were hard but the good folks of Benalto and Evarts helped out in many ways.

In January 1941, Murrle returned home and in April they moved to the Ralph Hambly farm, where Terry Hambly now lives. Murrle worked at odd jobs around the district. In December 1941, they again returned to the Watson farm and stayed until November 1943. Murrle went to the bush and cut logs for Bill Hansen and Dewey Nielsen. The family lived at the Cuddihey farm. Howard and Walter walked the three miles to Evarts to school all winter and only missed one day.

In the spring of 1944 Murrle bought a truck and started trucking, hauling grain to Rocky and bringing back posts and slabs. They moved to Benalto and lived that winter at the Bennett place, where the Thiels now live. In the spring, they moved to the Langton Well's farm but in the fall, Langton was getting married so they moved back to the Bennett place. Murrle and Madeleine spent the winter in the Gillis lumber camp. Murrle hauled lumber and Madeleine cooked. Madeleine's father had passed away in September, so Mrs. Hall came and cared for the family. That summer the place was sold to Mrs. Opp, so, having got tired of so many moves, Murrle bought two acres from Harry Hambly one half mile south of No. 11 Highway where the road goes into Benalto. They built a house and oil shed and in October 1946, started "Steele's Service Station".

Murrle still did trucking and hauled coal for the rural schools in the Rocky Mountain School District, as well as local people in a large area. They continued in this business for twenty years and it became noticeable how



Murrle Steele family, 1939.

many of the travelling salesman always managed to arrive at Steele's at lunch or coffee time. One fellow said he had enjoyed doing business over their kitchen table more than any place he called at. Except for one poor fellow — Murrle was away hauling gas and Madeleine in bed with the mumps. Howard was home in charge and this persistent fellow insisted he had to see either his Dad or Mother, so Madeleine, attired in dressing gown and slippers, came to the office door and informed the young man she was just not up to seeing his wares as she had the mumps. He quickly gathered his material and departed in great haste and as far as we know never did return.

The family all left home as they grew up. **Howard** married Alice Kinch of Three Hills. They live in Rimbey and are in the trucking business. **Walter** married Dianne Schumacher of Stettler and is a drilling supervisor with Amoco in Bolivia, South America. **Roy** married Betty Edmunds of Kindersley, Saskatchewan. He hauls cement in Edmonton.

While in Benalto, Murrle and Madeleine belonged to the Elks and Royal Purple, and served as Exalted Ruler and Honored Royal Lady of their respective Lodges. In 1966 they sold their business to Turbo Gas and Oil, and it is still operated by Ray and Alma Walker.

Madeleine and Murrle have a home in Edmonton. Murrle still drives a few trips when an extra gas hauler is needed. They have seven grandchildren and three great-grandchildren as of 1976. They still look back with fond memories of the days spent at Evarts and their association with the good people of the district and are proud to be asked to contribute to its history.

ANDY L. STEWART AND FAMILY

Andrew Love Stewart was married to Elizabeth Vance King Anderson, in the Wigtownshire area or the south-west tip of Scotland, where they were both born.

James, the eldest son, was born in Manchester, England, where the couple resided for a few years after their marriage. Jim, passed away in 1963. He was married to the former Gladys Carruthers of Camrose, and at the time of his death, was living in Whitehorse, Yukon. He had served in the Canadian Air Force.

Peter, was born in Kirkcowan, Scotland, and married the former Norma Norton of Benalto. He has farmed all of his adult life, also running the U.G.G. elevator in Benalto for 27 years, where he is presently living. They have four children.

Gordon (also born in Scotland), married the former Lavina Hall of Red Deer. They have five sons and have lived in Invermere, British Columbia for a number of years. Gordon, with the help of his sons, owns and operates a saw mill.

Isabel, born in Scotland, was married to Gordon MacLaren of Rocky Mountain House, who is now deceased. They had one daughter also deceased and three grandchildren. Isabel was employed by Grove Motors, Penticton, and managed the Loughed Hotel in Vancouver, for a number of years. She is now living in Penticton.

The Stewart family travelled by steamship from Scotland in 1912, and came across Canada by train to Prince Rupert, British Columbia. Their furniture came by way of Cape Horn.



Mr. and Mrs. Andy L. Stewart, wedding 1901.

While in Prince Rupert, Mr. Stewart was associated in the wholesale grocery business with his brother in the firm of Stewart and Moberley.

Probably because Mr. Stewart's sister, Jean, was employed by Mr. Scott, in a law firm in Red Deer, the family moved to Burnt Lake in 1914, farming there until settling in the Evarts district in 1922.

When Madison's store burnt down in Evarts on October 4, 1922, Mr. Stewart opened a general business in the Granny Laird building previously occupied by the Mesdemoiselles Hume. Neighbors included the Humes, the Bratons, Tom Simons (blacksmith), Jerry Chapman and Miss Uchida.

Activities included curling, dancing and concerts in the school house, also participation in the Evarts Caledonian Society events and Scotch nights held in Red Deer. Mr. Stewart was one of the original shareholders of the curling rink and both Mr. and Mrs. Stewart attended the Evarts Presbyterian Church.

Bad spells in the weather included a severe cold spell in December (about 1922 or 1924), when the temperature stayed around 50 degrees below zero for several days. Some automobiles were in use at that time but the roads were blocked during the winter. We had severe dust storms in the spring of 1931 and 1932 and hailstorms were bad in 1934 and 1935. The crops were a total loss in 1934 as the storm came in July. However in 1935, feed grain was harvested.

In 1937, the store and dwelling burnt to the ground following an explosion in which Mr. Stewart and Grant Cameron were seriously burned. A building was moved from Oyen (the former law office of Mr. Stewart's brother-in-law, Fred McLean), and it served as the new store and post-office. John Hillman built a two storey dwelling, attaching it to the store. After a few months, they were able to resume business in the new premises.

Teachers who boarded with Mr. and Mrs. Stewart included Carrie Nielsen, Miss Uchida, Miss Atsinger (following the fire which destroyed the teacherage), Miss Isabel Gilbert, Miss McLaggan and Mr. Len Willing.

In conjunction with the store business, a telephone exchange was in operation to serve the two rural lines known as the "East Line" and the "West Line". The Post Office served a large area as the mail was not delivered by rural routes, at that time. First, Mr. Simon, then, Mr. Stewart and later, Peter, met the train in Benalto each week day for many years with mail bags (incoming and outgoing). The groceries also arrived by train in those days and were taken to Evarts along with the mail. Mr. Stewart operated a cream route, picking up cream and delivering groceries. The cream for the most part was shipped by train from Benalto. He would exchange dairy butter and eggs for groceries, sometimes having trouble getting rid of the butter.

Mr. and Mrs. Stewart resided in Evarts, and continued operating their store until their deaths in 1944 and 1945 respectively. The store was located on N.E. 7-38-2-W5.

PETER STEWART FAMILY — written by Norma Stewart

Peter was born in Kirkcowan, Scotland and came to Canada with his parents in 1912. Norma Stewart (nee Norton) was born in Huntsville, Ontario, coming west to

Alberta in 1912 with her parents. After living in various places, I came to Benalto with my parents, Mr. and Mrs. A. Norton and my brother and sister in 1921. I was married to Peter Stewart in 1932 and moved to Evarts and in 1944 to Benalto. We lived in a house in Evarts which had been built in 1905 for Mr. and Mrs. Good, newlyweds. This house was later owned by the Bratons. It is of wood construction two stories, plastered inside and is still standing in Evarts. In the 1930's entertainment consisted of curling, dances, held in the school house, visiting, school picnics, entertainments, including at least one play. A Ladies Aid was formed, also a branch of the Red Cross.

We purchased land from Sam Braton, Harvey Jackson, Fred Heikkinen and the Braton Estate. We also rented land from Harvey Jackson for thirty-six years. We rented land from Erik Johnson for about the same period of time. Erik cleared his land by cutting the trees with an axe.

Peter also rented Douglas Walkers farm (now owned by Stan Burns of the Diamond Valley district) for ten years. In the fall of 1935, the barn burnt on this farm. Peter had finished threshing and had a large quantity of wheat stored in a lean-to of the barn, which was also destroyed. A log barn was built to replace it.

Peter operated the United Grain Growers elevator for twenty-seven years, retiring in 1971, but he still operates the farm.



Peter, Rhyne, Graham, Norma Stewart.

We have four children: **Norma Jean**, who is married to Wes Johnston. They have two boys and reside in Edmonton where they own and operate a drugstore. **Mary** was married to Ray Horn, of Edmonton. She has one daughter and resides in Calgary. She is employed at the Summit Hotel. **Isabel** lives at Prince George, British Columbia. She is employed at the Pulp and Paper Mill. **Graham** is married to Rynie Verendaal. They live in Edmonton, where they both teach school. They have a daughter.

Since 1944, Peter has employed helpers, who have lived on the farm, some of whom are: Mervyn Michaels, who later married Jean Philips. Mervyn is now deceased. Beatrice and Williard Philips, who now farm and live adjacent to Highway eleven near Hespero. Ernie and Shirley Thomas, Stauffer. Alice and Ed Periche, who are residing in Rocky Mountain House, Ed and Eileen Cundiff now living in British Columbia. Marjorie and Wally Haupt, now farming in the New Hill district. Mr. and Mrs. Ron Lund, Eckville, Nels and Helen Sauder, living in Innisfail, Mabel and Albert Carlson, Mr. and Mrs. Mike Law and Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Gittens. Prior to 1944, Peter hired the Ramage boys from Markerville, as seasonal helpers for many years, also numerous Indians for stooking and threshing.



Graham, Isabel, Norma Jean, Mary Stewart.



Since 1944, we have been living in Benalto. In 1964, we built our new home here and the elevator house which we had been living in was moved down to our farm at Evarts.

Our first house at Evarts has been purchased by Howard Tebbutt of Sylvan Lake. During the past summer this house was completely renovated. With the old house built in 1905 as a basic foundation, a beautiful home is taking shape. It will soon be the home of Joan and Howard Tebbutt and family.

Note: Some interesting history of the Andrew L. Stewart family was brought to our attention after their history had gone to the printers, it is being included with son, Peter.

When the Stewart family left Scotland, they shipped their furnishings including dining room, bedroom and drawing room furniture, carpets and piano to Canada.

They brought this beautiful furniture with its tremendous workmanship to their home here at Evarts, many Red Deer residents would travel to Evarts just to see this.

MR. AND MRS. ANGUS STEWART

Mr. and Mrs. Stewart came from Ontario, with their son, **Alex M.** and lived with him on his homestead. Mr. Stewart later homesteaded N.W. 17-38-3-W5, the place where the Harry Medin family now live. He passed away in 1910, his wife lived with different members of the fami-



Mr. and Mrs. Angus Stewart.

ly until her death. The family was **Mary McCartney**, Manitoba, **Janet McKenzie**, Ontario, **Carrie Caskey**, Manitoba and **Catherine Caton**, who resided in the Gaetz district and Alex in the Diamond Valley district.

ALEXANDER MALCOLM STEWART

Alexander Malcolm Stewart, was the second man to cross the Medicine River at Evarts and locate a homestead in what was later to become the Diamond Valley district.

He was born at Port Huron, Ontario, August 24, 1876, the son of Angus D. and Jane Stewart and he attended school there. After working on a farm in Ontario, he came west from Wyoming, Ontario, to Manitoba in 1899 and in 1901, he came to the Red Deer district and worked on farms in the area. On August 13, 1901, he first crossed the Medicine River by boat, where Evarts was subsequently located, to work at a saw mill three miles west of the river.

Alex. Stewart filed on S.W. 4-38-3-W5, the quarter section that he had selected, as soon as it was available for homesteading in 1902 and his first shack was built of slabs and poles, which was subsequently replaced by a home on a location farther to the south. Roads were non-existent in the area at that time and until 1903, when a post office was opened at Evarts, mail had to be brought out from Red Deer. The country was wet and most of the horses brought in, died of swamp fever and for several years, Alex used a team of oxen to break up the land that he so arduously cleared by hand. The progress often seemed painfully slow and a waste of time, when he could have been elsewhere earning a dollar a day, but he persevered and it was men of his determination and



Back row, left to right — Jim Brooks, Will Coughlin, Glen Caton, Cliff Coughlin, Grandma and Pearl Stewart. Front row — Bill Gosney, Catherine Caton, Harold on knee, Claude, Cecil, Edith Caton and Alec Stewart, 1917.

foresight that eventually developed the district into a productive agricultural area. He had one ox that he sometimes rode and when he did not take the pasture bell off him, it announced his arrival at his destination.

Alex. Stewart was married to Pearl Coughlan in 1918, and following her death in 1927, he was married to Jessie Caton in 1936. Throughout the years, he took an active part in practically every phase of the development of the district, being a member of the first council when the first four township local improvement district was formed, and when the district school was built in 1910, he was appointed secretary treasurer at a salary of \$35. per year. He never turned to power farming, using horses continuously after the era of the ox team had passed. For a number of years, four black horses provided his favorite source of operational power, and he took great pride in his herd of Shorthorn cattle. In 1950, at 74 years of age, he received a "Save the Soul" scroll from the Alberta Department of Agriculture. 1956 marked the 54th successive year that he had put up hay in the Diamond Valley district.

He had a remarkable memory names and dates and a keen sense of humor that is remembered by all those who knew him. His door was open to everyone and he took part in every local activity. At almost every gathering, he would be asked to say a few words of reminiscence. The humorous way in which he would recount the hardships of pioneering, was always the bright spot of the occasion. In speaking at one time of early Red Deer, he recalled hauling hay with oxen down the old wagon trail along the south side of Gaetz Lake and then down Gaetz Avenue and his closing comment was "I wonder what the people of Red Deer would say, if I took a load down there now".

Throughout his life, he enjoyed wonderful health and although he had then been having some of his field work done on a hired basis for two years, he continued to keep his cattle and horses until 1960, when he suffered a heart attack. He then sold his cattle and horses and rented the farm, on which, however, he continued to live and as late as the fall of 1963, he helped to shovel grain. He died

January 28, 1964, at the age of 87 years and he is buried in the Diamond Valley cemetery. His widow continues to enjoy good health and lives with her sister, Miss Sadie Caton, in Red Deer.

Note: Miss Sadie Caton passed away in June 1972. Mrs. Jessie Stewart is 96 years of age, and resides at the Valley Park Manor in Red Deer.

JACK SYMES

Jack and Amy Symes and family came from Saskatchewan, in 1940 to Red Deer and on to the Evarts district in November, 1946, settling on the Duncan farm, SE 2-38-3-W5.

The children attended the Happy Hill school. Some of the children remember vividly, the day, shortly after arriving in the district that their dad and some of the kids, went over to Ralph Hambly's to buy a school pony. They would ride it to school in the summer and drive it on a cutter in the winter.

Jack and Amy had six children. **Tom** married Harriet Hall. They have two children and live in Red Deer. Tom is employed with Border Paving, **Allen** (Corky) married Edna Vance of Rimbey and have two children. Allen is with the Forestry Department at Boyle, Alberta. **Eugene** married Peggy Adams of Rimbey. They have two children and reside at Rocky Mountain House. **Gene** is employed in construction. **Delores** became Mrs. Foxy Bye of Lacombe and they have five children. **Boyd** (Spike) married Betty McConnell from Regina. He works with an oil company in the East and Arctic Slope, not too far from Greenland. They have four children.

In 1951, the Symes family moved to a farm in the Bluffton area.

Jack was under a doctor's care for sometime before his death in December, 1959. Amy, later married George Langevin and they live at Hoadley, Alberta.

The friendliness and togetherness of their neighbors at Evarts was a great part of their lives and they say, "they'll never forget it".

LAZARUS (LARRY) TELNING

Larry, son of Andrew and Anna (Sveinson) Telning was born in the township of Trenton, Pierce County, Wisconsin, on January 3, 1886, and came to the Burnt Lake district with his parents in 1902. He remembered the winter of 1905-1906 as a memorable one, rain and lightning in January, plowing in February and seeding in March, but the following winter of 1906-1907 was the coldest in memory.

In 1907, he homesteaded a quarter section NE 9-38-3-W5, west of Evarts. Later he became practically a jack-of-all trades, working on freight trains, on logging crews and in sawmills, in a mine, a garage and a cement factory, but he finally settled on well drilling as a vocation and in 31 years had travelled to many areas in the Red Deer district particularly in the west country.

He was married to Adelaide Sybil Read, a niece of Mr. and Mrs. Gingras of the Evarts district on June 5, 1918. She died suddenly, the next day after their first wedding anniversary and is buried in the Red Deer cemetery.

On July 5, 1919, Larry had a sale by public auction four miles west of Evarts, George Welsh was auctioneer

with Scott Hastie the clerk. Following the sale, Larry left for the west coast. He returned to Red Deer.

On March 21, 1925, he was married to Borghild Sophie Andreassen, who came to Red Deer from Norway. Larry was employed for three years in the fire department office where he sold and installed pumps.

Mr. and Mrs. Telning had three daughters, **Shirley** married Bill McPherson, they live in Vancouver and have two boys. **Melba** (Toupie) married Bob Goodacre of Red Deer, they have three children and reside in Red Deer. **Jean** died at two years of age.

In 1976, Mrs. Telning was one of the elderly woman who was struck by an automobile while crossing an intersection in Red Deer. She spent some time as a patient in the local hospital.

Larry passed away in 1972, at the age of 86 years. Mrs. Telning still resides in Red Deer.

DICK AND FLORENCE TENNANT

Richard (Dick) Tennant was born in 1872, at Red Cloud, Nebraska and raised there also. His parents homesteaded in Red Cloud. About 1902, Richard ventured to Canada where homesteading was in vogue. He built a log and sod-roof shack on NW 20-38-2-W5 and started farming. He was interested in milking cows later and had quite a herd. In 1906, Dick's friends, Walter Guernsey and John Holsworth came from Red Cloud and spent the winter with him. They enjoyed each others company and John especially was impressed enough to return later with his family to take up farming also on land adjoining Dick. The winter was spent in hunting, trapping, woodcutting and all the activities related to staying in a small cabin, at that time quite isolated.

Florence Diamond came from Ontario, to visit her friends, the Slacks, but failed to return home to Ontario, after meeting Dick. They were married in about 1910. Now, Dick built a frame house to the south of the cabin and joined the two buildings together, making a more spacious house. It was here, a son, **Walton** arrived in the Tennant family and later **Louise** came along.



Mr. and Mrs. Richard (Dick) Tennant and family.

The Tennants were active in community affairs, attending the Presbyterian church at Evarts, Florence was in the Ladies Aid and Dick held offices in the church as well as the school board. In 1919, Dick and Florence decided to try a different climate, held an auction, sold the farm to William Robertson, and moved to a small farm near Salmon Arm, British Columbia. **Earl** and **Charles**, two more sons, joined the family here. They had a dairy herd and delivered their milk in town for some years, first in a democrat and team of horses, later a truck. On retirement, they moved to Canoe, British Columbia, close by the Shuswap Lake. Dick passed away in the early sixties. Florence lived only a few years after. The Tennants are still remembered by some of the old timers, as always very friendly and neighborly folks.

HAROLD WILLIAM TENNANT (1919-1961)

It was in April, 1919, the farm, then being owned by Harold's maternal grandparents, William and Rose Holsworth, that he was born to the Holsworth's eldest daughter Mabel, who had married Charles Rowe Tennant, of the Diamond Valley area. So now, 29 years later (April, 1948), he literally "came home". He was now married, to the former Sally (Sarah) Clear, of Grays Essex, England. We were married in 1945, while Harold was serving overseas with the Royal Canadian Corps. of Signals (1942-1946). He purchased the farm from his grandmother, Rose Holsworth under the Veterans Land Act, N.E. 21-38-2-5. We stayed on the farm until 1952, being hailed out a couple of years and mice taking a large proportion of the crop another year. Our eldest son **Michael** was born in 1948, he is now married to the former Marlene Tessier and they are living and working in Red Deer. After leaving the farm, Harold worked steadily in the oil industry and in 1953, our second son **William Maurice** was born, he is now married to the former Carol Larsen and they have two children, Steven and Shelley. Bill is employed with Cormac in Red Deer. Our daughter, **Patricia Ann** was born in 1955, she is married to Randolph (Randy) Robinson, they live and both work in Red Deer.

Harold passed away in 1961, while working in the Libya oilfields and is buried in the British Military Cemetery in Benghazi. The children and I returned to Canada in June, 1961. Time has brought many changes, but it is still good to look back and "remember when", for isn't this what this book is all about?

WILLIAM A. THOMAS — by the late Mrs. William Thomas Sr.

W. A. (Bill) Thomas was born near North Bay, Ontario in 1890. There were four boys and three girls in his family. I have never met his family and know very little about them. He started his first work at the age of thirteen and has been on his own ever since. In 1917, he came west on account of his health and worked in the Drumheller district, later filing on a homestead in the Trochu area.

I knew Bill many years before we were married. During the First World War, he served overseas and was married in Scotland before returning to Alberta. They lived in Calgary and Bill worked for Alberta Ice Company there. In the winter of 1925, **Billy** was born. When he was three years old, his mother died of pneumonia, in

the Holy Cross Hospital and is buried in the Burnsland Cemetery in Calgary.

I (Louise) worked in Red Deer and then in Calgary. In April, 1930, Bill and I (Louise Crawford), daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Crawford of the Diamond Valley district, were married in the Knox Church in Calgary and lived in Calgary for five years. Bill was anxious to try his hand at farming, so we left the city in 1935 and farmed NW 2-38-3-W5, for ten years. In 1945, we moved to Red Deer where we made our home. During the summer, Bill supplied ice to the summer residents at Sylvan Lake.

Billy married Jean Shantz from Red Deer. They have three boys and reside at Valleyview.

NOTE: Bill and Louise Thomas have both passed away and are buried in Red Deer.

JAMES FRANCIS TOBIN — written by James Beverley Tobin

James Francis Tobin, my father, born in Cameron, Missouri, February 11, 1873, came to Canada in 1916. He lived and worked with John (Jack) Fitch at Centerville, buying land near George Fitch in the late teens. He married Lilas Mae Jackson, only daughter of Cyrus B. Jackson, in 1920 and farmed around Evarts and I believe Diamond Valley for a few years. He then moved to Condor for a couple of years and to Caroline in 1931 or 1932. He sold his place at Caroline in about 1946 or 1947. Dad died in Edmonton, November, 1951, at the age of 78.

I, James Beverley Tobin, was born at Evarts, December 1925. Mother died January, 1928. I then lived at John Fitch's at Centerville until about 1933, when I moved to Caroline with my father and became a bachelor boy. I left school at about my fifteenth birthday, during grade nine. I was not able to write department exams, as I had had the measles and would come below 85 percent of school day attendance. I went to work in a logging camp for Mr. Dan McGrandle of Caroline. The next few years were spent working mostly at logging and sawmilling, with some haying and threshing on farms. One fall, I topped sugar beets at Lethbridge. I also did a bit of truck driving. I married in 1945, to Madell Harris of Caroline. 1947 was a break-away from old habits and occupation, as I did engine wiping for the C.P.R. roundhouse in Red Deer, for about five or six months. I then helped build the new bridge in Red Deer and helped take the old one down. I worked at steel work for about eight or ten months, returning to Caroline for one year to go logging. In the spring of 1949, I went to work on a pipe line at Leduc and in 1950 I started roughnecking at Redwater, and haven't learned any better since. By 1952, I was a driller. In 1956 I married Hilda Froelich and in 1962, took an assignment to Australia and after two years, went toolpushing, a step above drilling, for a total of four and one half years with my family of five children. We really enjoyed Australia — prospecting for opals, in our spare time, driving here and there, getting to know customs and people and enjoying it all. We returned to Canada in November, 1966, staying here one year. We then went to Libya in 1967 for two years, living in Malta. We loved Malta. We lived well and enjoyed the sea and much of the customs. In 1969, we witnessed an old horsepower in use for raising water, and a threshing machine without a blower, sacking the grain. We also



Hubert Fitch, Mr. and Mrs. Ed Mannerfeldt, Mr. and Mrs. Earl Fitch, Mr. and Mrs. Jim Tobin.

saw a foot-powered lap-wheel for making pottery by a family that used the hands to shape the pottery turned out, hand painted and all. We watched lace being made by hand.

Returning to Canada for Christmas of 1969, I began working in the Arctic Islands, until May, 1971. We left for Venezuela, in May and stayed until August 1973. This trip we really enjoyed as well. We have stayed in Canada since returning in 1973 and I am employed as a Drilling Supervisor by a firm that does consulting and engineering in the oilwell drilling business. Our home is in Edmonton.

I don't know our future plans. We do have ten acres north of Tampa, Florida. It's very tempting, but a person has to keep working. I have started a bit of genealogy and enjoy this very much. I am 51 years young now, so can't retire yet. I have four children by my first marriage, three girls and one boy. One married son died in 1972. I have two sons by my second marriage, also nine grandchildren. All the families live close by us. How lucky or unlucky can a guy be!

EDWARD AND LILY WADSON AND FAMILY — written by Roy Wadson

In the two decades prior to World War I, the developing village of Evarts attracted enterprising men and women who saw their future in the rich farmlands of the area. Among them was one, Edward Wadson, whose life was destined to be closely associated with this pleasant land bordering the valley of the Medicine River.

Ed was born in Narpes, Finland on March 28th, 1881. His parents were Markus Gadda Wadson and Anna Lisa Manfolk. In 1898, he and his sister, Alma, emigrated to Boston, U.S.A. Two years later they were attracted to Port Arthur, where this developing inland port promised good working opportunities. He worked for a time in construction of the grain terminal elevators, until an accident resulted in the loss of his left arm. He then turned to a business career by purchasing a hotel and cafe which he operated until 1911.

Sometime between 1913 and 1915, he moved west to Evarts, Alberta. Here he purchased the quarter described

as N.W. 34-37-3-W5 from Swan Bystrom. As time passed he accumulated more land including the parcel known to district old-timers as the "Solomon Quarter". Eventually his farm in Evarts comprised of four quarters.

On September 6, 1917, he bought lots in the townsite of Evarts on which he bought a hotel which he operated for a few years. During this time he apparently took a leading part in civic and community business. In later years, he often referred humorously to the time he was "Mayor of Evarts".

In 1919 he met his future wife, Ottilia (Lily) Gustava Hoven who was a widow with one son, Roy. She was the daughter of Jonas and Anna Bergstrom of the Diamond Valley district. The wedding took place on June 8th, 1919, at Sylvan Lake. Pastor A. Hjortaa officiated with Swan and Carolina Bystrom witnessing the ceremony.

The family took up residence on the farm located four miles west and one mile south of Evarts. Here four of the children were born: twins, **Theodore Edward** and **Elsie Anna** on September 15, 1920; **Alma Ottilia** on November 3rd, 1921 and **Hulda Marie** on February 20, 1923. **Elsie Anna** passed away on May 11, 1921 at the age of eight months.

The family moved to Red Deer in the fall of 1923, when Ed bought the Windsor Hotel. He continued to operate the farm and the hotel for about twenty years. Two more children **John Stanley**, May 19, 1924, and **Gilbert William**, May 7th, 1929, were born here.

Around 1940, the hotel was sold, and a year later Ed and Lily returned to the farm which they operated with the help of son, **John**, until 1946. The farm was sold and they returned to their home in Red Deer for twelve years before moving to Edmonton in 1958.

An occasion which was a high-light in Ed's life, and which accorded him great pleasure and pride, occurred on March 23, 1956. On this day he and several fellow pioneers were presented with Life Membership Certificates by the Central Alberta Pioneers and Old Timers Association.

Ed passed away on September 25, 1958, after suffering a gradual deterioration in health. Four years later, Lily moved to Port Alberni to live with her son, John. She passed away on January 22, 1963 at the age of 73.

Five children of Ed and Lily Wadson survive. The youngest son, Dr. Gilbert William Wadson passed away suddenly on the 23rd June, 1957. At the time of passing he was resident staff physician at the Royal Alexandra Hospital, Edmonton.

The eldest son, Roy, was a Flying Officer serving as an aircrew member on heavy bombers of 424 Squadron, RCAF. While overseas he married the former Olive Green of Newcastle-on-Tyne, England. They and their daughter, Sherrill, live in Edmonton where Roy is Guidance Counsellor in Salisbury Composite High School, Sherwood Park. Their son Wayne, also lives in Edmonton with his wife, the former Glenys Johnson and their son, Cory.

Theodore (Ted) served in the Royal Airforce Ferry Command as electronics technician. In 1945 he married Corinthian Annabelle (Terry) Bent in Montreal. They and their children, David and Donna live in Edmonton. Ted is Director of Engineering for Sunwapta Broadcasting Ltd. (CFRN)

Alma Wadson married Earl McKee of High River in March 1951. They and their daughter Sheila and son Kerry live in Olds. Their eldest daughter Lori married David Wilson and lives in Calgary. Earl has a trucking business.

Hulda Wadson married Tom Rodway of Red Deer, in June 1947 in Vancouver. They and their two children, Brenda and Kevin, live in Red Deer where Tom works for the C.P.R.

John married the former Marcella (Marcy) Charlotte Graf, in Port Alberni, British Columbia in July, 1950. They and their daughter Sandra, live in Port Alberni where John works for MacMillan Bloedel Lumber Co. Their sons, Bryan and Garry, are both going to the University of British Columbia in Vancouver.

THE WALKER FAMILY — by Mrs. John Watson SE 9-38-2-W5

My mother, Mrs. Walker, left Edinburgh, Scotland, in April 1906, to make her home in Canada. Her three daughters, Hattie, Annie and myself, Lily, came with her, also her mother Mrs. Laird and her sister Miss Hattie Laird. Mother's four sons, William, Archibald, Leslie and Douglas had come to Canada a year or two previously and seeing more opportunities for young men, persuaded mother to buy land. Mother bought half a section from Mr. Emmanuel Cronquist of Red Deer, approximately three miles east of Evarts. At this time there was talk of a railroad going through Evarts but it eventually went four miles north and Evarts never became the thriving metropolis that we were led to believe.

There was no land under cultivation on the land that mother bought. The first breaking was done with oxen. Later we bought horses from Donald Smith who brought broncos from Ashcroft, British Columbia and broke them. We had never been on a farm before and made many mistakes.

Willie and Archie left the farm. Willie went to Calgary and Archie to Ladysmith, British Columbia and later to Penhold where he operated a store along with Mr. Wood.

The "shack" we came to, was crude to say the least, made of logs with a lean-to kitchen and one room upstairs where the boys slept. There was no place for the six ladies that arrived, but with some lumber the boys had, they made a temporary bed across the end of the kitchen. Three slept (or tried to) at each end with a board across the middle, until we had an addition to the home. Our first winter was the very cold one of 1906-1907. We had three heaters to light every morning, the kitchen stove, a box heater in the dining room and a heater in the living room. We girls took turns week about in lighting the fires and we kept our mittens under our pillow to keep them warm and with turtle neck sweaters and felt boots, we were ready to face the cold downstairs. We had to carry water a quarter of a mile and with a large household, it entailed a lot of work.

Our house was so cold, that when making bread, we put the large bread pan on a pail which had a stable lantern turned down low to keep the batter from freezing overnight. We also had one or two blankets over the top.

There was no church in Evarts at first and services were held in the school house by any denomination that had a student minister out in the summer. There was no



Mrs. Walker and Mr. Craig's wedding, 1914. Back row — Archie, Douglas, Hattie, Laird, Willie, Lily, Dora Lethem, Leslie. Front row — Annie, Hattie with Frieda, Mr. Craig, Mrs. Walker, and Archie's children Jim and Mary Walker.



Back row: l. to r. — Grace and Leslie Walker, Bill McLelland, Archie Walker, Gerry and Hattie Macdonnell, Douglas Walker, Lily Macdonnell with Marjorie on knee. Middle row — Lily McLelland, Granny Macdonnell, Granny Laird, Mrs. Walker with Dean on her knee, James Craig. Children — Bunty and Grace Macdonnell, David Walker, Frieda Macdonnell.

church organization at that time. The only ordained ministers that I remember were Reverend Hillis Wright, who boarded with the Martin family at Ridgewood and later Reverend York, that many people will remember for his great kindness. I was organist at this time. The school house was the centre of everything, dances, political meetings, etcetera. Dances were the only form of entertainment and people came many miles to them in sleighs in the winter time. Usually everyone stayed until dawn and reached home in time to make breakfast.

Some of the young people tried to make a skating rink just south of the bridge, but there was so much snow that first winter, we had to give it up, as we were doing more shovelling than skating.

We had good neighbors. The nearest ones being the Johnsons, Mr. and Mrs. Wilcox and the Fitch families. The Earl Fitch family were the ones we knew best. There were also the Willoughbys, Robertsons, Shaclocks, Millwards, Husseys, Smiths and many others.

Aunt Hattie married Bob Lawrence who owned the Evarts Hotel at that time.

Mother and the boys filed on the homesteads west of Condor, but mother was the only one who proved up on her homestead, with the help of her daughters. You had to spend six months each year, for three years, on the homestead and either break 15 acres of land or run so many cattle. We girls took turns going out with mother and with books to read, and sewing to do, we managed to put in the time. Life was hard, but we were young. We had no television, no radio, no telephone, no car, almost no anything, but we had our youth and health and really enjoyed life. Mother never liked farm life and after visiting a sister in Trinidad and then England, she married James Craig, an old time friend and lived in Liverpool, England until her death.

Members of the Walker family: **Willie**, never married. He worked in both Calgary and Edmonton, he was a reporter and shorthand writer in the courts. He died in Red Deer in 1959. **Archie**, married Alice Hives of Penhold and he and Aubrey Wood ran a general store in Penhold, until he retired in 1937 to Victoria, British Columbia, where he is still living, aged 97 years. Their family Mary and Jim live in Victoria, David (deceased) and Peter in Vancouver, British Columbia. **Leslie**, married Grace Tucker from Manitoulin Island, who taught school at Shady Lane. They moved to Sylvan Lake where Leslie was secretary for the town of Sylvan Lake. Leslie passed away in May 1949.

Their family, twins Elizabeth and Marjorie, and Mildred are all living in Vancouver, British Columbia. **Douglas**, married Ida Greenwood, a teacher, who died at childbirth. He later married Dorothy Playle and they farmed at Diamond Valley until retirement to White Rock, British Columbia, then to Norwich, England. Douglas died at the age of 83 years in England. Their girls, Lettie and Judith live in England and Geoffrey at Whitehorse, Yukon. **Hattie**, married James A. L. Macdonnell in 1909 and lived at Pitcox, Alberta, later called Hespero. Jim died of the flu epidemic in 1918. Hattie went to Liverpool, England and lived with mother until mother's death, when she returned to Canada and lived with her daughter and son-in-law, Grace and Wilbur Knott of Edgington, Alberta. Hattie died in 1959 in Red Deer while staying with sister Annie. Her other daughter Frieda lives in Sutton, Surrey, England. **Annie**, married George Wright who farmed south east of Hespero for a short time, then moved to Penhold and farmed. They had a family of four: Heather, (Mrs. Chuck Yakimchuk) of Red Deer. Marion (Mrs. John Kennedy) of Calgary. Sandy (deceased in 1963) and Robert, who lives in Edmonton, Alberta. George died in 1941 and Annie died in 1972, aged 84 years. **Lily**, married George Henry Macdonnell in 1913, and lived at Pitcox, later called Hespero. They had three daughters, Buntie (Mrs. Ralph Nelson) of Banff, Alberta. Marjorie (Reverend Mrs. Earl Smith) of Islington, Ontario. Geraldine (Dean) (Mrs. Norman Toseland) of Calgary, Alberta. The Macdonnell brothers

ran a store which served the country for many miles around. Gerry died in 1947 after retiring due to ill health.

In 1952, I married John Watson of Evarts, so came back to the district to live again. Jack passed away in 1975. I am living in Banff.

Note: Lily celebrated her 86th birthday in 1976.

THE JIM WALKER FAMILY

We, Jim and Myrna Walker, and our four children; **Debra**, eight years; **Carey**, seven years; **Roger**, five years; and **Robert** six months, arrived on the farm of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Staniforth in the cold month of January, 1964. We felt very fortunate to be living in their beautiful yard and in the warm cozy house that Bev and Dood, and their family once lived in.

Jim was employed as a plant operator for Hudson's Bay in the Diamond Valley field.

Debra and Carey found the bus ride to Benalto, something different and enjoyed every minute of it.

We all enjoyed living in the country very much, and especially the scenery of the beautiful countryside which we captured from the kitchen table every morning.

Mr. and Mrs. Staniforth were very friendly and helpful along with Bev and Dood, Bill and Queenie, and their families.

Our family especially enjoyed the Christmas party that the Evarts Ladies put on, the fine supper, the enjoyable Christmas program, and of course Santa and his gifts.

We lived there for one and a half years, until we purchased our home in Sylvan Lake, where we are still residing.

Debra, now 20, is working in Vancouver, British Columbia, with an optometrist; Carey 19, taking her last year as Dietary Technician in Edmonton, Alberta; Roger 17, taking his Grade twelve, and Robert in Grade seven.

JOHN WESLEY WATKINS — by Alf Watkins, S.E. 16-38-2-W5

My father John Wesley Watkins, was born in what is referred to as the New England States. I think it was the State of New Hampshire. He was a true Yankee, as his ancestors came over to United States on the Mayflower. Mother was born in Tronjen, Norway, and came to Minnesota, when she was a girl of about sixteen. Father met her there and later they were married.

I had two uncles on my father's side. My uncle Olin Watkins was a doctor, and practiced in Minnesota for a number of years. He worked a lot with Mayo Brothers Clinic, and was well known for his work. Upon his death, the city of Duluth newspaper devoted a full page to his story. My other uncle was a lawyer, and practiced law in Duluth. My Aunt Abbie, was a school teacher, also living there. Another aunt, Mrs. Sarah Green, married a lawyer in Duluth. My uncle, at one time owned nearly all the city. He had put down payments on large amounts of property there, but when the depression hit, this ended his financial endeavors in this line. It was while we were living in Willow River, Minnesota, that my sister **Abbie** and myself **Alfred** were born.

In about 1897, my family moved to Devil's Lake, North Dakota, close to Canada, and it was here my brother **Leonard** was born. **Wesley** and **Clifford** were born in Alberta. My grandmother, on my mother's side

lived with us until her passing. She never spoke a word of English, only Norwegian, and my father could not speak Norwegian, only English, but somehow they communicated. Mother had a sister living in North Dakota also.

I was introduced to school at an early age, as my sister was shy and wanted company, so I was sent to accompany her, but I was really not old enough to go to school.

In about 1902, my father longed for the adventure of a homestead. Word had been passed along about the cheap land available in Canada. Dad had always wanted to come to Canada and so we made the move. Alberta was our destination, Red Deer was the nearest town, and a man from the livery in Red Deer, brought us west of there. We were one of the very first to settle in what was later Evarts District. Father bought three sections of land at three dollars an acre. He later sold it for six dollars an acre and also acquired a homestead. Two of these sections were located west of the Medicine River, and the other was just east of Evarts on what today is known as the Hambly section. I am not sure how long we lived there before moving on to our homestead, which was about three miles east of Evarts on the road to Red Deer, and presently occupied by the Periche family. I think that would be the road now called the Burnt Lake Trail. I never heard it called that, it was just called the "road to Red Deer". Father got some Canadian Pacific Railway ties, and he and another man split them with a cross cut saw. These were placed on end for the walls of our homestead house. It was a very well built house for those times. I can remember settlers coming to stay with us and Father was always a friendly man would take them out to help them find their homestead. We often boarded the land surveyors, who were busy at this time surveying all the countryside. The mounties used to stop in regularly. They would be on horseback, and wore their red coats, making their rounds to see how everyone was. It was here at the homestead that the Mannerfeldt boys were sent once a week, to learn English from my sister Abbie.

Father had many projects going while in Evarts. One was a well drilling outfit. He drilled many wells in the area in the early days. One school wanted a well. The school was on a knoll. They decided there would be better chances for a shallow well (costing less) at the foot of the hill. This was some distance from the schoolhouse. Father made a wager with them. He told them that he would donate his drilling if the well was more than sixty feet deep, but it would have to be drilled on top of the hill where it would be handy to get the water. Water was found before the sixty foot level, so father was paid for his drilling. He also bought a sawmill outfit from the Clausen Brothers, who had it on the Medicine River right at Evarts. Dad moved this mill to a site a few miles west of Olds on the Big Red Deer River, where he operated for two or three years, sawing lumber for the Great West Lumber Company, from Calgary. He did very well for awhile, until the big company went bankrupt, owing father a few thousand dollars. This ended the sawmill business.

There were very few trees near Evarts. Mostly poplar and willow and a few spruce. Any lumber for the sawmill was brought in on the river, and floated down to a boom at the mill. I remember about 1903, there was a good

wooden bridge across the river, which had been built a few years before. As near as I can remember, the countryside close to Evarts was quite low and flooded at times. Right where the village of Evarts was, it was a little higher and I don't think it ever flooded there. At times we saw Indian families. They were always friendly to us.

Some of the people I remember while living at Evarts, were the Edgars. There were three brothers. Sam Edgar moved to Salmon Arm and was a neighbor to us there again. It was here where Sam Edgar died. There was a homestead cornering our homestead where a bachelor lived by the name of Seivert Lindelin. There was a family living close, by the name of Mannerfeldt who had two boys, Ragnar and Edwin. Ragnar went to work at a mine, and Edwin went farming I think. There was a family of old-timers living four miles east of Evarts by the name of Bertheusons. Their boy and girl attended Evarts school with us. Lokens lived a little east and north of our homestead. They had sheep and a spinning wheel and the ladies made yarn. Also I remember they knit socks and mitts from the wool, and underwear as well. There was quite a settlement west of the river, but names escape me. The only name I remember was Oscar Anderson.

There were no doctors or dentists in Evarts. The only doctor was in Red Deer. Father's brother Olin gave him two pair of forceps for pulling teeth, when we left Minnesota and he kept them handy for anyone with a toothache. Dozens of people came to our place to get teeth pulled. He always made them promise him that if he started to pull their tooth that they had to let him finish, even though they might change their mind during the operation. He would then shake hands with them, ask them to open their mouth, and he would get a firm hold on the patient by placing his arm across their shoulder, so as to have them under control at all times. One pair of forceps was for pulling the tooth, and he had another pair of root forceps. (Mrs. Max Lightbown, one of Mr. Watkin's patients, still shudders a little when recalling a toothache she had, and remembers her father driving her ten miles or more in team and wagon, to have it pulled. She then smiled and said it didn't hurt for long). Of course this kind of dentistry was done without the aid of pain killers.

Everything was pretty well all cattle ranches and some good sized horse ranches too. There were no fences to keep the stock confined. They were branded usually in the spring and turned loose to roam. It was necessary to brand everything then, so most of the farmers had a brand of their own. There wasn't much grain sold, because the frost always got it before it ripened. I can remember a homesteader by the name of Hedrick, who lived south of Evarts, near the Icelandic settlement, who went to southern Alberta, and down into Montana, and got a lot of wild horses, to sell at Evarts. He brought a real honest to goodness cowboy back with him, and I still remember the auction sale, where this cowboy worked hard all day, but didn't seem to mind a bit. When a horse was put on the block, the cowboy roped it first, and if requested, he got on and rode it to show how tame it was. The man who bought it then was given the rope with the wild horse on the end, and it was his from there.

Father had a cutting box for cutting straw. The straw was pushed into it and a crank turned it. It was thought to be safe, but I tried pushing straw into it, and managed

to turn the fly wheel by hand, taking off one of my fingers.

I attended the very first school class at Evarts with my sister Abbie and brother Leanard. I was six years old that year. My father was the Secretary-treasurer on the first school board. Miss Ada-Belle Brown was my first teacher. I loved her. She was so patient, and clever. All the children really liked her. Some of the games we played were pump pump pull-a-away, prisoner's base, and a game called steal sticks, or something like that. There was a pile of sticks for each side, and the kids had to turn to the opponents pile of sticks, without getting caught, and steal a stick for their pile. I had a very "friendly" dog, who protected me at all times, so he often spoiled the game when he wouldn't let anyone get sticks from the pile. I would walk by the hotel, and the dog would be right by my side, and should anyone from the saloon attempt to become talkative to me, my dog soon let them know not to. We often played along the creek bank at noon. The school was not fenced, so we were not that careful where we played. Baseball was played a great deal at school. The team started out with the pitcher's box not too far from the catcher's, but each year as the kids grew bigger, the pitchers box got moved further away. I was the team's catcher.

The Evarts Sport's Day was an event no one missed. It was always held on the twenty-fourth of May. It was a wonderful holiday. A race track was measured out on our land near Evarts on the flats. It was a half mile track. Just Indian ponies and cayuses ran, but there was lots of fun and a few bets made. It was just a big farmer's picnic. There was always a tug-o-war and games and races for the kids. One of the big events was the baseball games. Even Red Deer would come out to play, and we often cleaned them. Sam Braton was the Evarts pitcher, and he was a good one. The Clausens played, and so did Jack Robison. I was the catcher. I was the only one with a glove. There was always a big dance in the school to wind things up, and the kids always came to school early the next day, because all the lemonade and ice cream and goodies were left there for the kids to finish.

I also became janitor at the school. I walked to school early to start the fire. One morning it was very cold and my hands had gotten so cold I couldn't get the key in the lock, so I went to the hotel and the Chinese cook there helped me to get warmed up. He also fed me some pie and hot drink, telling me that after this when it was cold, I was to go to the hotel first and get warm before I went to the school. You would get thirty-five cents for cutting a cord of wood with the axe for the school.

When Father moved the sawmill to Olds, our family moved also, thus ending our days in the Evarts District. When the company went bankrupt, we moved to Salmon Arm, British Columbia. Father had a very bad cancer and passed away in 1913. Mother lived until 1954, spending these years with my brother Leanard, who never married, living in Salmon Arm. My sister Abbie, passed away about 1920, and my brother Clifford in 1935. Brother Leanard and myself, still live in Salmon Arm, and Wesley lives in Vernon. While living here, my wife ran some apartments for years, and I worked for the Department of Highways. We are both retired now. When we first came to Salmon Arm, I spent four years in the Kootenays, running the assayer office there for the



Alf Watkins family group.

gold mine. I first went there and hired out as a mucker but they wouldn't let me down the mine until I had the proper equipment, and so while I was waiting for this, I worked my way into the assayer job. This was good for me, as the hungry thirties were not so good to some. I was on my own time and could finish early, and be through for the day, but had to have a report in every day, and never miss one. I might add, while living here in Salmon Arm, my three brothers, Clifford, Wesley, Leanard and myself were all on the ball team which was in a league all through the Valley. We played at Salmon Arm, Vernon, and Kamloops. Baseball was our "first-love".

We have a son Mel, forty-four years old, and a daughter Audrey, forty-six years old and four grandchildren.

JOHN WATSON

John was the third son of Mr. and Mrs. George Watson of Edinburgh, Scotland and was born March 27, 1887. His education was taken at the George Watson Boys College also in Edinburgh. Throughout his life he continued to be a member of the Watsonian club. During summer vacations he would work on farms. From a very early age John was interested in the new country Canada and would read every available article he could find to prepare himself for the farm he hoped to get in Canada. At the age of 16, he and his father boarded a boat for Canada on April 1st, 1903. They came on the same boat as the Barr Colonists who settled at Lloydminster. From eastern Canada they came by train to Edmonton, North West Territories. In Edmonton they purchased horses, wagon and supplies and started on the prairie trail to take up a homestead at Gilpin (ten miles north of present town of Viking). His mother, sister and brother arrived a year later.

Gilpin was 80 miles south east of Edmonton, so trips had to be made to Edmonton for supplies; it was while he and his father were away on one of these trips that tragedy struck, on their return, their homestead shack had burnt to the ground.

He used to tell different incidents that happened on the trail, such as blizzards and extreme cold in the winter time. The deep mud ruts on the trail and how he'd get stuck with the wagon. In the summertime the swarms of

mosquitoes would necessitate building smudges which consisted of a fire with green grass thrown on it, to produce lots of smoke, the horses would get into this smoke to get away from the mosquitoes. On one expedition, he traded two small cayuses with colts at side for one pretty grey mare, she was dandy for riding, but when put in the harness "was she ever balky!" He kept her and after they moved to Evarts, he had about 30 horses and most of them were her descendants.

In 1911 or 1912 he ordered an ordinary driving buggy from Eatons catalogue in Winnipeg, they were temporarily out of stock, so they sent him the next best — a rubber tired buggy. Naturally he was real proud of it. From that time, Eatons was held in high esteem and he became a good customer. This new mode of transportation worked well for him in his courting days, so on June 25, 1913, Jack (as he was known to all his relatives and many of his friends) took Mina Elizabeth Gilpin, daughter of Mrs. J. Gilpin of Viking, formerly of Gorrie, Ontario, for his wife. Her father, the late Mr. J. Gilpin, had been killed in a run-away accident, when she was just a young girl. She was a shorthand typist with York and McNamara in Edmonton.

From 1913 to 1918, they lived in Camrose where John was in the grain business. In the spring of 1918, he came to the Evarts district and purchased N.W. 14-38-3-W5 from Melvin Davies this quarter was homesteaded by H. Farrar, January 4, 1904. John made arrangements that Mr. Davies provide the seed and put the crop in and that he would do the harvesting. Mr. and Mrs. Watson moved to Evarts in August 1918, John, driving team and wagon with their furniture and belongings and trailing other horses. Mrs. Watson drove their Model T Ford. Roads were a little better than trails. Mr. Watson's first feelings of his new farm was that he had paid too much for it, as it was very wet. Some neighbors told him he'd be leaving in a boat. A fair portion of his land was seeded to hay and he harvested a good crop. First year he was at Evarts, he started feeding cattle and fattening them out, a business that has carried on ever since, on the Watson farm. Times were hard and to keep the wolf away from the door, he bought and sold grain and hay. He travelled by car until roads were unfit, then he'd take his team and cutter and go as far as Alhambra and Leslieville areas. Hay that was bought would be put up as long hay in the summer, then baled with a stationery baler in the winter. The bales were hand tied with wire. They would be loaded on racks and hauled to the railroad, the grain would also be hauled to the railroad and each loaded out in box cars for shipment to various points, some as far east as Manitoba.

The winter of 1919-1920 was a hard one, it started in October. There was a shortage of feed for the livestock, he remembers selling one stack of hay for \$45.00 per ton. A neighbor had an auction sale in the spring, the hay sold at \$104.00 per ton. Some livestock had to be sold or face starvation. He recalled the spring of 1920 being late, only one good rain, but hay crop yielded one and a quarter tons per acre.

In February, 1933, John topped the Winnipeg market with good quality heavy slaughter steers at \$3.50 per hundred weight at Winnipeg realizing \$2.75 at Benalto. This was the lowest price he remembered receiving. In 1934 comparable steers topped the St. Paul, Minnesota



Mr. and Mrs. John Watson, 1920.

market giving him a return of \$4.04. He felt things were picking up.

It was about this time, Clyde Stauffer was visiting in the area, he saw these fat steers and said that it was the first time he'd seen steers fattened on grain.

In 1934 Mr. and Mrs. Watson having purchased S.E. 14-38-3-W5 from J. O. Shillington, built a house on it and moved there. The carpenters got 25 cents an hour. This house had running water in it (an unusual convenience in the farm homes at that time). In 1938 a windcharger generator supplied electricity to the house. The Kirch brothers, Ernie and Erve of Eckville took the windmill down at the Watsons old place and brought it to their new home and put it up for \$21.00. Bob Larratt was threshing rye at the Watsons in 1934 for seven cents a bushel; one day while the men were eating dinner, the radio quoted the market price of rye at six cents per bushel. November 1936, Mr. Watson purchased 125 yearling steers from the Indian Agency at Gleichen for \$3.15 per hundred weight; totalling \$3600.00. Ed Skodopole did considerable brush cutting in 1938 at \$7.00 an hour, piling at \$6.00 per hour and breaking at \$4.00 per acre. 1939 saw Clyde Stauffer doing the threshing, he charged six cents a bushel for wheat and five cents for barley.

A son **George Kay** was born to Mr. and Mrs. Watson. Kay married Nellie Jarvis of Happy Hill district. They have three sons.

Mr. Watson was instrumental in getting curling started in Evarts, he was president of the Medicine Valley Telephone Company and board member of the Presbyterian Church at Evarts, holding those positions for a number of years. During the war years he was chairman of the Victory bond drive for Sylvan Lake and west districts. He had a wide range of knowledge particularly

in cattle feeding, general farming business, religion, politics and was interested and active in the stock market. Much of his knowledge was accumulated because of the tremendous amount of reading he did. An asset to him in this respect was an Underwood typewriter that he purchased on his honeymoon and used for the next 50 years.

Mrs. Watson was highly respected and extended kind hospitality to many friends and neighbors. She was a member of the Evarts Ladies Aid for many years and attended Evarts church. Mrs. Watson after a brief illness passed away at her home in January, 1949 at the age of 62 and is buried in the Red Deer Cemetery.

Some years later, Jack married Lily (Walker) Macdonnell of Hespero, who was an early resident with her family at Evarts. (Her history appears elsewhere in this book).

Lily and Jack spent several springs in Vancouver and over on the island.

A long and devoted farm life in Canada was the choice of John Watson, who actively farmed up to his 80th birthday. He passed away April 1975 at the age of 88 years and is buried in the Red Deer cemetery. Lily resides at Banff, is in good health at the age of 86 years.

THE G. KAY WATSON FAMILY

Kay, the only son of Mr. and Mrs. John Watson was born in Edmonton. He was named after his parental grandmother whose maiden name was Wilhemia Kay. He took his schooling at Evarts and Benalto, then on to Olds School of Agriculture for a two year agriculture course, graduating in 1943. He always rode a horse to school, while attending Benalto. It was a long, cold trip in the winter, for the five miles from home to school for Lloyd McNeil, Gerald Stauffer and Kay riding horseback. On completing his schooling, he returned to the farm, and farmed with his Dad.

In June 1947, he married Nellie, elder daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Les Jarvis of the Happy Hill district. After completing Grade nine at Happy Hill, Nellie took her high school at Dickson and a two year Home Economics course at Olds School of Agriculture graduating in 1946. She then worked in Sylvan Lake at Watkiss's Coffee shop and Neely's Drug Store before her marriage.

Their first home on N.W. 14-38-3-W5, was the original home of Kay's parents when they came to the district in 1918 (the house had been built in the early 1900's). They had been used to having electricity and running water, so it was rather a backward step for them to carry water, use coal oil and gas lamps and pardon the expression, go to the "outside John", but they took it in their stride. Due to shortages from war years, linoleum and curtain materials were not available, so the floors were just plain boards. It was two years before they acquired these items.

Kay's dad being a beef-man, Nellie's dad a hog-man, they wanted to please both, so entered into both cattle and pig-feeding. Pig business just wasn't their line, so after a few years they settled to cattle and grain farming. As was stated in Kay's Dad's history, the feeding and fattening of cattle has carried on, down through the years.

There were many trying times over the years, when it came to shipping the fat steers to market. They had to be

driven over five miles from the feedlot to the stockyards on the Canadian Pacific Railroad at Benalto. The most troublesome place on the trip was crossing the bridge over the Medicine River, west of Evarts. Sometimes the milk cow was led from home down to the bridge to help to entice the steers to cross. In 1946, one of the worst times, when they were shipping steers to the Fat Stock Show in Edmonton, the river was in flood and big chunks of ice in the water, the steers broke away at the approach of the bridge and plunged into the river, swimming across among the chunks of ice. One steer nearly lost its life, it arrived at the east side of the river and found the bank too steep to climb — he escaped, but no one knows how — as there was great concern for all the other animals. On June 21, 1948 they shipped seven carloads of fat steers from Benalto, this made up a train load, because farther west that morning the steam locomotive had a connecting rod bearing go out on it, so it was only operating with one piston. While loading and spotting the cars for loading the cattle, if the one working connecting rod got on dead centre, the railroad crew had to use a jack to get the crank-shaft slightly off dead centre, in order for the locomotive to move. These steers were sold to Canada Packers at Edmonton for 37 cents per pound (big price in those days), they went on to New York, where they were used by a hamburger chain restaurant that was just opening up. Another trying time was the year 1951-52, when feeder steers went in the feedlots at high prices in the fall of 1951 and Foot and Mouth disease broke out in Saskatchewan in February 1952. The market plunged, and each province had to consume the beef that it produced.

A change and great improvement in the marketing of cattle was the arrival of the cattle-liners. The first one to come to the Watson farm was Eamors of Calgary, who hauled three loads of 35 head each of yearlings in 1954. On the brighter side of the cattle picture was the summer of 1973, when they sold finished steers at 55 cents a pound at the farm.

Nellie and Kay lived for ten years, before building their present house in 1957 on S.E. 14-38-3-W5. They moved into it on December 23, it was a beautiful day with no snow. Stewart and Ross rode their tricycles across the field and even kicked up some dust.

Their family includes three sons. Stewart Kay arrived 1951, John Ross, 1953 and Tracey Knight, 1960.



"Judy" 1946.

Stewart and Ross took their schooling at Evarts until its closing in 1959, then by bus to Benalto, Sylvan Lake and Red Deer. Clifford Hansen was their bus driver for many years. While attending Evarts school they rode a white pony "Judy", which their mother had ridden to Dickson High School. Judy was a kids pet and could do many tricks; she was a common sight at the Watsons farm, living until the ripe old age of 32 years.

Stewart married Violet Southern of Sylvan Lake, a graduate in hairdressing from Red Deer Vocational school. They live in the trailer court at Blackfalds, with their sons, Robert and Curt. Stewart is owner-operator of a truck leased to Parkland Livestock Cattleliners.

Ross married Sharon Lemke of Diamond Valley district. They live in Ross's grandad's home and Ross is farming with his Dad.

Tracey took his schooling in Benalto and Sylvan Lake and is presently attending Lindsay Thurber Comprehensive High School in Red Deer taking grade eleven. He was a member of the Benalto 4-H beef club and received some awards.



Tracey, Kay, Stewart, John, Ross, and Nellie Watson.

Kay was a director on the Eckville Recreation Board; a president of the Medicine Valley and Evarts Telephone Company, besides a member on the Board of Directors for Alberta Agricultural Development Corporation for a number of years.

Nellie is a charter member of the Evarts Community club, was a member of Evarts Ladies Aid; she has worked with 4-H clothing and 4-H beef clubs; taught Sunday School at the Presbyterian church in Benalto; was Treasurer for Parkland District Council for Brownie, Guides, Cubs and Scouts. Nellie and her friend Darline Burns taught ceramics in the Watson home for a few years. This hobby was enjoyed by many women, some school children and the 4-H craft club.

Kay has continued to carry on the family farm and cattle feeding operation and with wife, Nellie, sons Ross and Tracey operating under Circle W Farms.

Some of the employee's who have worked on the Watson farm have been

Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Wright, Charlie, Willie and Frankie; Mr. and Mrs. George Cowie and family; Mr. and Mrs. Alexander Grant, Alec and Betty; Mr. and Mrs. Donald MacLeod; Mr. and Mrs. Donald Wilson; Mr. and Mrs. Jim Anderson and Margaret, all came from Scotland directly to the Watson farm. Others were: Mr. and Mrs. Alex Lackie and family and Mrs. Lackies brother Adolph Larsen; James Carrol; Murrel and Madelaine Steele and family; Don Philips who stayed with Bob Larratts, Frank Riske stayed with Murrel Steeles, he enlisted in the war and was killed overseas. Tommy McInnis, a good friend of Gordon Stewart and stayed with the Stewart's at Evarts; Ted and Gladys Greenwood and family, they now reside in the Evergreen district. As a matter of interest Orville Rindero and Ted Greenwood's sister, Margaret were married in their home, it being the house Mr. and Mrs. John Watson lived in, when they came to the district in 1918. Orville was employed at the Watsons. There was also Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Dolan, Tommy Duncan, the Philips brothers, Archie, Williard, Walt and Jim; John Lakusta, Mr. and Mrs. Tom Galloway; Louis and Grace Gauthier of Esterhazy, Saskatchewan; Mr. and Mrs. Ron Tisdale; Agnes and Esmond Doering of Red Deer and Fred Anderson. Florence May, Thelma Hall (Mrs. E. Barlund), Mary Gowans and Mrs. Grace Hall (who remained for over 20 years) assisted in the Watson home.

JOHN ROSS WATSON

Ross was born on the 17th of August, 1953 at the Eckville hospital, to the parents of G. Kay and Nellie Watson, presently of the Evarts district.

Grade one for Ross commenced by riding horseback to what is now known as the Evarts Community Centre only to last two weeks at which time the school headquarters moved to Benalto. Here Ross studied to grade eight; followed by grades nine and ten at Sylvan Lake; grades eleven and twelve at Lindsay Thurber Composite High School, Red Deer.

From his child years of eight to fifteen, Ross was active in Boy Cubs and Scouts from which he achieved the 1968 Queen Scout Award through which he attended a Scout Jamboree in Scotland.

Through the years of 1971 to 1974, Ross attended Olds College where he graduated in Livestock Production and Agriculture Mechanics.

During the winter of 1974-75 Ross, accompanied by a college friend, backpacked through 24 of Europe's countries and North Africa, returned home via the United States and Mexico.

Sharon Denise Watson (nee Lemke) was born on the 27th of April, 1956, at Red Deer hospital, to the parents of Waldemar and Adeline Lemke, formerly of the Diamond Valley district.

Grade one was attended at the Dickson elementary school while the remaining years of her education were studied at Spruce View School. Through her school years Sharon was active in playing on high school basketball team, cheerleading, Modern Millies 4-H Sewing club and served as the Craig Lutheran Church organist.

Following high school completion, Sharon moved to Red Deer where she attended Reeves Business College

completing a 12 month Legal Stenographer course. Graduating with honors, Sharon achieved the award of Central Alberta Typist of the year, College typist and Secretary of the year. Upon graduation she was employed for a year by a law firm in Red Deer. With holidays in view she ventured on a tour to Britain and numerous of Europe's countries.

Ross and Sharon were married on the 8th of November, 1975. It was their ambition to renovate and live in Ross's grandfather's home (John Watson) S.E. 14-38-3-W5. As the house was not quite complete at the date of their marriage they resided in Eckville for the first four months. Ross is now farming with his father on Circle W Farms at Evarts.

GEORGE WAY

George Way homesteaded N.E. 2-38-3-W5 on November 27, 1902. He was in partnership with Mrs. Thatcher in the cattle business. Later he farmed by himself and had around 300 sheep. After leaving Evarts he moved to the Innisfail area.

EMMANUEL S. WECKER

Emmanuel and wife Catherine (Walker) came from Cluny, Alberta, with their three sons John, Daniel, David and daughter Mary, also Mr. Wecker's mother in the spring of 1933 to the Island Ranch S.E. 6-38-2-W5. They farmed and had some cattle while on the ranch.

They had three daughters that were married before they came to the Evarts district. **Ida** (Mrs. Jake Korschuk) Calgary, **Elsie** (Mrs. Allen Clark) Calgary, **Hilda** (Mrs. Raymond Smith) of Calgary. **Mary** married Wilburt Siebel, they lived on S.E. 17-38-2-W5 (Terry Hamblys) then moved to Alhambra, they are living in Calgary now. **John**, was in the army during the war 1939-1945, carried on until he was pensioned. He married Margaret McLeod of Calgary, they have a family of five and live in Red Deer where John is distributor for Calgary Herald. **Dan**, married Ann VanLest they live on a farm at Bentley and have a family of three. **David**, married Freda Bardal of the Happy Hill district, they have continued to farm there. They have two daughters Laura and Bonnie and son Brian.

J. HARVEY WELLS

In 1920, our father, J. Harvey Wells, sold the family farm at Eversley, Ontario, which his grandfather had homesteaded over a hundred years before. He moved the family to Merid, Saskatchewan, where he had purchased several quarters of land and a general store. Father passed away in September 1933.

In the summer of 1934 when it was obvious there would be an almost total crop failure, the family decided to make a fresh start farther west away from the drought area. Lloyd and Langton, with Clyde Stauffer and Herschel Moyer left by car to look for a new farming location. On this trip the Wells boys, after looking over the Indian School farm near Red Deer, contacted Donald Smith and signed a three-year lease for the Island Ranch of seven quarter sections. In November that year nine quarter sections at Merid were abandoned by the Wells, as at that time they couldn't be sold for enough to pay for the one year's taxes owed. Some farm equipment not suited to parkland farming was traded for livestock which Saskatchewan neighbors were anxious to dispose

of, due to feed shortages, so the Wells herds were increased.

The federal and provincial governments that year paid the shipping charges on livestock sent out for winter feeding to avoid having to purchase and ship in feed to assist the farmers. So five carloads of cattle and horses were loaded at Alsask billed to Elspeth early in November 1934. Two carloads of farm machinery and household effects were loaded at Merid and left for Elspeth on the same train as the livestock from Alsask, all in charge of Howard Wells and Harold Stewart, designated as caretakers accompanying shipments.

Howard, a laid-off Canadian National telegrapher, had enlisted the assistance of the Calgary Canadian National chief train dispatcher and through train connections at Hanna and Mirror, the seven carloads reached Elspeth in approximately 24 hours. It should be mentioned that quite a number of good neighbors helped for days, dismantling machinery and even a barn, the lumber from which was used to wall in a railway flat car to hold machinery. The lumber was used later to construct grain bins, etcetera, at Island Ranch. Langton and his mother travelled by the family car and were on hand at Elspeth by afternoon as the shipments arrived. The cars had been placed at the leading to, the unloading platform so that a good team of workhorses could be procured first thing to be harnessed and used to pull the other cars of livestock up to the platform for unloading as only one car could be accommodated at the platform at one time.

Langton's saddlehorse was also caught and saddled for herding the livestock. As the horses and cattle were released from the cars they began grazing in the railway yard and seemed contented. After two hours of unloading 52 horses and then 95 cattle, it was getting dark, and only then, was it noticed the horses were missing. Apparently after having grazed a while they decided to head back to Saskatchewan on the road straight east from Elspeth at full trot. Langton overtook them several miles away and brought them back. Howard and Harold on foot tried to round up the cattle and get them headed west towards Benalto, as it had been arranged to winter them on the Simpson farm adjoining Benalto. Possession of the Island Ranch could not be taken until the first of March 1935.

The cattle, having come from various herds in Saskatchewan, tended to break up into groups and it was difficult on foot in the dark to herd them along the road west which was at that time quite heavily lined with trees. Several evaded the herders that night but Langton found the stragglers next day and all were tucked away on Simpson's east and west quarters for the winter. The machinery and effects were unloaded the following day. The household effects and needed equipment were taken to the Simpson farmhouse and the machinery tossed off on the platform and ground to be hauled later, some to the Ranch, but most to Simpson's farm.

Despite a light snowfall the day following arrival, the hundreds of parts of machinery were mostly all located and reassembled at Island Ranch in the spring with a minimum of difficulties. Although there was a deep well at the Simpson farmhouse the livestock had to be watered daily at a shallow well near No. 11 highway a short distance east of the Canadian Pacific Railroad crossing. A wooden handpump served this well and every

day water was pumped by hand for the 95 cattle and in addition every second day 50 horses from the east quarter were brought over for a drink and returned.

Langton and Howard found some time to curl at Benalto and met many of the local people. Ralph Hambly furnished haircuts whenever he had time. In early spring Jack Friesen, formerly from Alsask, came to work on the ranch and was very helpful getting moved down from the Simpson farm to Island ranch and setting up the machinery etcetera.

Lloyd had stayed on at the Merid farms to fatten a carload of cattle left there to feed off what grain had been grown in 1934. Late in February 1935, he loaded and shipped another car of effects including the John Deere tractor.

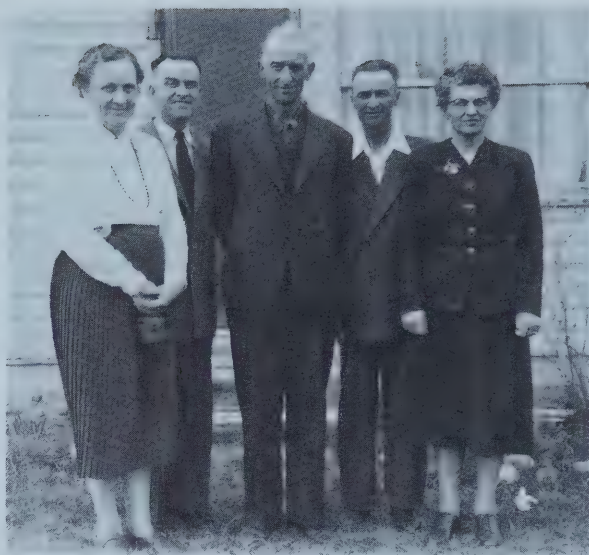
Before Lloyd left Merid, a longstanding friend Sam Kolbinson who used to join Langton on prairie coyote chases with their wolfhounds, sent along a pup wolfhound as a gift for Langton. At the farm in Saskatchewan, Langton's wolfhounds had been a continual source of trouble, breaking into boxes of frozen meats and gulping down bushels of ground grain, so this would not start up all over again on the farm, it was imperative the young dog should go missing. Howard met Lloyd at Elspeth when he and his car arrived and as luck would have it the section foreman at Elspeth who lived in the old station building near the platform had a son Tommie Peters who came along to see us unload and showed interest in the puppy so the only decent thing to do was give him the dog. But we neglected to inform him of its growth potential. Year later Tom became a Canadian National telegrapher, worked with Howard and confessed they too had to dispose of the pup which grew so big.

Many of the Evarts people had been met at Benalto during the winter but many more were to become friends after the move down to Island ranch. There were the Stewarts, Camerons, Harry Durward, Scotty Rogers, Staniforths, Watsons, Hannas, Kathols, Bramalls, Hillmans, Gowans, Jacksons and many more, but it is hard to recall just when and how each became acquainted.

At that time though, Harry Durward's favorite song was "Sweet Little Alice Blue Gown" and eventually it brought lasting results. He married Alice Cameron.



Mrs. Wells Sr. and Mrs. Donald Smith.



Merla, Howard, Langton, Lloyd, Alwilda Wells, 1952.

Over the years Ruth Steele, Mary Wilson, Joan Owens and Margaret Leithead assisted mother on the ranch.

In the autumn of 1942, Mrs. J. H. Wells suffered a stroke but recovered and lived for several years with her daughter, Merla, Mrs. W. J. Patton of Vancouver. During the last two years of her life she was with her daughter Alwilda, Mrs. John Staniforth at Evarts, Island ranch was given up.

In April 1935, **Alwilda** arrived from Plenty, Saskatchewan, where she was employed in a Federal Government office, to join the rest of the family at Island Ranch. In July 1936, she left for Vancouver to take a course in beauty culture returning to Evarts in the fall of 1937, remaining on the ranch with the family until March 1939, when she married John Staniforth. They moved on to S.W. 18-38-2-W5, Sam Braton's homestead.

In December 1941, she accompanied John to Calgary when he joined the Canadian Navy, later moving to Saint Hyacinthe, Quebec. In the summer of 1942, she moved to Victoria, British Columbia, where John was stationed, she worked at Boeing Aircraft until 1945, when they returned to the farm, where they have resided since. She has been active in community activities, also, she and John are members of the Elks and Royal Purple Lodges of Benalto.

Merla, Mrs. W. J. Patton arrived at Island Ranch in December 1941, from Toronto with her youngest son Graeme, to spend a few months before moving to Vancouver to reside. She delayed her departure after our mother suffered a stroke in 1942, leaving for Vancouver in the spring of 1943, accompanied by her mother and sons, Graeme and her elder son, Harvey Glass, who resided at the ranch since the fall of 1939 and attended the Evarts School.

Lloyd married Vera Williams and settled on a farm near Benalto. They had a son Vern, who lives at Blackfalds, and a daughter Myrna, who became Mrs. Brian Cermak, they live at Eckville. Lloyd passed away in 1973. Vera resides in Rocky Mountain House.

Langton and his wife, Catherine Hansinger lived across the road from Lloyd. They have a son Bruce and a daughter Judy, who resides in Red Deer. Bruce and Catherine live in Kelowna, British Columbia. Langton passed away suddenly in 1958. **Howard**, who married Margaret Irwin was teaching at Alsask when he was night operator under Canadian National agent "Shorty" Youill, left there in 1943 and went on to be Canadian National agent at Pinkham and Mirror. Howard and Margaret live at Chilliwack, British Columbia. Their daughter, Pamela is nursing in Abbotsford, British Columbia.

GEORGE WELSH — by Neva Lamar

My parents, George and Nellie Welsh, moved from Iowa to Red Deer in 1900, and soon homesteaded south of town. Several years later, they moved to the Evarts district with their three children. **Ed, Joe**, and myself, **Neva**. We were fourteen, nine, and six years old respectively. My father farmed a little, but was also the auctioneer for miles around. He always travelled by horse



Mrs. Nellie Welsh with sons Ed and Joe.

and buggy. Of all the other people living in town, we were the only family with children. We lived in a two-storey unpainted house near the school. My dear mother, always wanting to lend a hand wherever she could, boarded the teacher. When the roads and weather were real bad, she housed all the children she could, who lived away from town. She always fed the strangers who were travelling through the area, as there were no restaurants in those days. I especially remember the church. All the men sat on one side of the church, and the women and children sat on the other side.

Charlie Macklin ran the blacksmith shop at Evarts about 1910. In 1935, he and my mother were married and made their home near Penhold. At one time there was a play we children wanted to see. The admission was thirty-five cents, and we had no money. Those were depression times. There was a picnic at Shady Nook, so we went and entered the races there. The prizes were five cents for a single winner, and ten cents for a couple. We ran as many races as we could, and finally won enough for our admission to the play. We did not dare buy any ice-cream nor could we accept any treats from others, knowing we could not reciprocate. However, most everyone else was in the same position as we were. Not much ice-cream had been sold. About four o'clock they started to give the ice-



Buford, Neva, Ed, Glen Lamar.

cream away, so we all received more than our share gratis. We attended the play, and really enjoyed it.

I married Bulford Lamar of Ridgewood district in 1932. We have two sons, Ed and Glen. Ed and his family now live in Illinois. They have three children. Ed is a school teacher. Glen and his wife have two children, and live in the State of Washington. Glen is an artist. My mother, Ed, and Joe have now passed away. My husband and I have now retired, and live in southern California.

WENGBERG FAMILY N.W. 9-38-2-W5

In the spring of 1962, Hans and Elizabeth Wengberg moved to the Evarts district. At that time, they had two boys, **Terry** age three years, and **Lorry** age one year. **Sonya**, their only daughter was born in December of that year. Hans emigrated from Sweden in 1951, and worked for his uncle, Wm. Olson of Red Deer while he learned the English language. He left his uncle's farm in 1953, and worked on oil drilling rigs in the Red Deer and Joffre area. Elizabeth, eldest daughter of Isaac and Barbara Hamilton of the Willowdale district east of Red Deer, obtained a teaching certificate in 1955 and taught school in the County of Red Deer for seven years, including one year (1964-65) at Spruce View. They were married in June of 1956 and lived in Red Deer for a year, Hans worked on the rigs and Elizabeth taught in Innisfail. In May of 1957 they bought and moved to a farm east of Penhold. Wishing to expand their farming operation they sold the farm at Penhold and bought the Ed Liddell and Elmer Sjare farms in the Evarts district and moved to Evarts in 1962. The opportunity to change occupations presented itself in 1965. Selling their farm effects they bought the feed mill in Calmar and subsequently left the Evarts district in June of that year. The farm was later sold to Ralph Hambly.

Shortly after moving to the Calmar area they bought an acreage near the village of Thorsby and established a cow-calf operation. Elizabeth accepted a teaching position on the Thorsby High School staff and during the summers and evening sessions was able to complete the

bachelor degree program in Education at the University of Alberta. The feed mill was sold in 1972 and Hans continues to operate a cow-calf business and Elizabeth teaches in the high school in Thorsby. Their children, Terry, Lorry and Sonya attend that school and both boys are active in minor hockey in Leduc. Sonya was an active 4-H member winning public speaking awards. Hans has twice returned to Sweden, once in 1972 taking Elizabeth and the children to meet the family and again in 1974 upon the death of his father. They have plans to again visit his family in Sweden.

BRIAN WEST N.E. 16-38-2-W5

Brian, son of Maurice and Mary West, was born in Barrhead, October 1942, while his father was serving overseas. Upon his father's return, the family settled and farmed in the Halkirk area. Brian attended the Halkirk school and after graduation in 1961, moved to Edmonton. It was while attending the University of Alberta, that he met Elizabeth Collyer (Leila), daughter of George and Mary Collyer, who was born and raised in Edmonton. When Brian graduated in May 1965, they were married and moved to Calgary where Brian was employed with John Deere. After a year they moved back to Edmonton to take a job with Brian's present employer, Alberta Agriculture.

Susanne Elizabeth was born, May 1968, and in the fall of that year Brian was transferred to Red Deer. Second daughter, **Catherine Adele** was born, November 1969. July 1971, brought an exciting move for the West family to their home in the country, the above location. Here **Craig Matthew** was born in December, 1972.

MR. JOHN L. WILLOUGHBY — by Elizabeth Johnson

The doctors ordered Mr. John L. Willoughby to leave his law practice in the Great Lakes area of Michigan, and to go west to a different climate. He did just that, and in the summer of 1905, travelled throughout Alberta, and selected land in the Medicine River valley. The soil was black and deep, the grass was very high, and he could see the Rocky Mountains.

Mr. Willoughby returned to Capac, Michigan, and prepared to move to Evarts, Alberta. Three horses were selected to go into a settler's car, as well as the usual farm machinery. The household furnishings went into the opposite end of the car. A pot-bellied stove and fuel was put into the centre, and soon became a life-saver. Before Christmas, the train pulled out and started west.

Mrs. Willoughby, and their two daughters, aged one and five, went ahead to Saskatchewan to spend the holidays with relatives there. They were to meet Mr. Willoughby in Red Deer. When they arrived in Red Deer, no settlers' trains had arrived. They waited for a month, while the railroad officials tried to locate the stalled cars. Finally the cars came. They had been snow-bound in the Dakotas for thirty days.

The move to Evarts had to wait until the storms moderated. A student from the Indian school, west of Red Deer, was hired as a guide, to take the first sled load to the farm. They followed the best travelled roads to the haystacks, so the trip covered many miles. The house had no windows, as cattle had broken all the glass, so major repairs had to be made before the family could move in.

Homemaking in that very cold climate presented problems even for former Michigan residents. The cut-glass ware that had survived the move, soon broke in the cold cupboards. The continually heated stoves did not keep the food from freezing or the frost from forming on every nail in the house. However, spring did come, and the country was so beautiful. The flowers, birds and trees were so plentiful. The neighbors were all so very kind and helpful. Olaf Norman helped locate and dig a well. He also sold us our first cow. The Walkers came frequently, also the Johnsons. Near Evarts the MacMillans lived, and they were special to us. There was Hugh, Margaret and another brother. The Stevenson girls and other young ladies helped when my younger sister was born. The Eymundsons were also great people. About 1909 Mr. Willoughby rented the Haldorsen place where there were more barns for the stock. They had to be driven to the river for water, to a spot near the Eymundson house.

When we returned to our log house, I had a pony to ride to Evarts School, whenever it was in session. Our teachers lived at the hotel, but were often at the Willoughby's for supper. An English boy by the name of Frank Gibbs came to live with us for a year. He helped with whatever he could do. He was a very homesick fellow, so likely returned to England.

A Scotch gentleman, named David Robertson was directed to our farm by a Red Deer land developer, and we always have been grateful to both of them. David learned quickly how to manage a farm and care for the stock, and plant the fields. He decided to buy the farm. In the fall of 1912, David's brother Robert, sister Margaret, and a nephew James Frew, arrived from Scotland to become partners. Bob Robertson brought his accordion with him and entertained us generously. Jimmy Frew had a delightful voice, and his Aunt Margaret kept reminding him to practice. I left him my pony Kate and a dog named Heckla. Our last night in the vicinity was spent with Mr. and Mrs. York. Mr. York was a pastor, who drove all over the country holding services and performing other pastoral duties. He spent many week-ends with us before his bride arrived from England. We left our friends with a heavy heart. There had been no school for several winters. Due to the lack of this, the Willoughby girls went to Edmonton with their parents, where school classes were held regularly.

DONALD WILSON

Donald and his wife and family rented the farm N.E. 14-38-3-W5 and resided in the buildings built by previous owner Wm. Howe. He worked for John Watson for sometime. Mrs. Wilson helped Ed. Medin out many times. Their house was just across the creek to the south of Ed's.

JOHN WOOD

Mrs. Wood and her son, John lived on S.W. 20-38-2 W5. They lived there from the teens until around 1922 when they moved to Calgary. About a year later, they had a sale and sold their land to Oscar Soderquist. John married in later years.

Mrs. Wood was a member of the Evarts Ladies Aid and she and John were always found at social functions and the Evarts church.



John Wood and mother, 1920's.

WILLIAM WOOF

William (better known as Billy) was born at Gill Ferbank, Yorkshire, on February 24, 1874. His father Richard Woof, married Alice Nelson. He was one of a family of nine children. Billy's schooling was to the sixth grade, but he soon became well advised in the fundamentals of general farm practises and routine. He recalls he and his brother used to gamble their pennies on the exact time that the family cows would calve.

At the age of nine he first drove a team of horses and guided a walking plow, that turned over moist, narrow furrows. To the breaking up and tilling of the soil he devoted much of his life. He was a devoted lover of the soil.

At age of 17, he hired out to a farmer at Dent, Yorkshire, where he took charge of the cattle and remained for two years. In 1900, he came to United Stated and was employed on a farm near Sioux City, Iowa. His great ambition was to own land of his very own. A homestead in Canada's west brought him to Calgary, Alberta, in 1901 and on to Red Deer. Arrangements were made for him to go out with a land locator and a party of men, which included Alex. Stewart, Jack and Andy Murdock, to inspect land across the Medicine Riber in the present Evarts district. At this time, it was not surveyed, so homesteads could not actually be recorded; but assurance was given that if a shack was built on the land chosen, it would be available for homestead by the person doing so as soon as the survey was completed. A fee of \$10.00 was given to a firm in Red Deer by Mr. Woof in 1902, for S.W. 2-38-3-W5. Some stipulations he had to abide by to retain his 160

acres were: firstly a shack or house be built, he must live on the land for at least six months of the year, for the next three years, break ten acres each year. By proving same, he could obtain the title. He could as well pre-empt another 160 acres. The same stipulations were to be abided by as a homesteader, with the exception that pre-emption duties extended to three years and 50 acres broken, plus \$3.00 more. If for any reason the filer could not show just cause why he didn't take up residence in the first six months the land was up for cancellation. Following further investigation the land was once again posted for filing.

Mr. Woof considered himself fortunate in being able to board at the home of Luther Evarts who homesteaded N.E. 12-38-3-W5 previously. He said once a homesteader arrived bag and baggage on his claim, lumber had to be acquired for his shack, but he stressed the initial and vital concern was his water supply. The creeks, river and sloughs in the area provided the immediate solution until a well could be dug. His homestead was solid bush, no cultivation at all.

Cash income was an early problem and as he did on numerous occasions, he walked to Red Deer to get employment with Henry Steinholt, pioneer Red Deer contractor. He drove a stallion and a balky mare to haul rocks for the foundation of a store.

In 1905 and early 1906 he went to British Columbia and tried out many jobs. He was called back to his homestead in Alberta by Jim Bannerman, the homestead inspector, as the arrangements that he had made for the completion of the improvements had not been done and he had to return and personally attend to this.

His first crop of 15 acres of rye yielded him 25 bushels to the acre. Lacking horses and oxen of his own he arranged with Oswald Forhan to have the use of his team of oxen in consideration of one days labor being furnished returned by him for every day the oxen were used.

Later he traded Gus Dahlgren a wagon for a team of oxen, one a Jersey and the other a Shorthorn, and he bought two other oxen at a sale east of Evarts. He said he seemed to have an instinctive understanding of animals and got along real well with them. Breaking and discing with them became his main source of cash income. He would start early in the morning, breaking as much as three acres a day, but he always made it a practise to stop early enough in the day for the perspiring oxen to regain their normal temperatures before the chill of evening.

He had many experiences with oxen, his first was with four yokes of oxen to pull a breaking plow. He broke up Section 31 for Donald Smith with his oxen and an 18 inch breaking plow which would lay out a sod of 22 inches. He had to often tough up the blade with a small anvil and hammer to straighten it and a file to sharpen it. Mosquitos were very bad, he would mix creolin and grease together and smear it on the oxen to keep the flies and mosquitos off. Mr. Woof would double disc the land which he broke up. Grain was seeded by hand, Jerry Chapman who worked for Ivy would drive the team on a wagon, Mr. Woof would stand in the wagon and broadcast the seeds with his hands. A nephew Fred Britton used the disc and disced it in. A binder was used to harvest the crop. It made the bundles which had to be stooked. Mr. Woof, humorously recalled, at that time he smoked a pipe, and it kept going out on him while he was

stooking. He got so disgusted, he never smoked again. The bundles had to be stacked. Mr. Woof remarked "Jerry Chapman could put up the best stacks of bundles". Mr. Woof eventually sold his oxen to a cattle buyer.

In 1906, men by the name of MaKechnie and Jamieson started a lumber mill west of what is now Evergreen. They wanted a road cleared out to the mill. Many Evarts district men were glad to get this work. They would work ten hours a day for \$1.50. They would walk back and forth to work, taking their lunch along. A camp was built at the mill for winter use. Temperatures would go down to 60 and 70 degrees below zero Fahrenheit. The winter of 1906 and 1907 was terrible, one of the hardest. Mr. Woof hauled lumber from the mill into Red Deer.

Mary Eva Foster, born at Seberem, Cumberland England in 1887, came to Lacombe district in 1911 and became Bill Woofs bride in 1912.

In 1913, he took on a breaking contract at Ferrier, west of Rocky Mountain House. He bought three oxen and a Cockshutt sulky plow from Ed Mannerfeldt, and with his wife he travelled west, crossing the North Saskatchewan River west of Rocky Mountain House by ferry to his destination. He completed that contract and also two more. The weather was hot and sultry. Starting early in morning, he worked three hour shifts with one hour rests. Oxen had a hard time standing the heat. The pay for breaking at that time was \$10.00 per acre.

A son, **Richard**, was born in 1913, and **Robert** in 1918.

In 1921, they decided to leave the homestead, so rented it and moved to British Columbia.

In 1922, a daughter **Rooney** arrived. She was named after a very good friend, Mrs. Jack Murdock.

They decided to return to Alberta, having sold the homestead in the period of years. They purchased a farm in 1923, in Poplar Ridge district, five miles west of Red Deer.

Tragedy struck the Woof family in 1951, when Mrs. Woof who had taken a great interest in local affairs as an active community worker died at the age of 63 and a son Robert passed away on Christmas day.

Richard, married Pauline Peck and moved to Ohaton, Alberta.

Mr. Woof had sold his original farm and took over his son's land. He found that now it was essential to have a tractor to cultivate and crop the acreage involved. Even though he was then 80 years old and all previous experiences were with oxen and horses, he was determined to master the operating of a tractor and he did. He mastered three successive models within the next ten years.

He retired from active farming at the age of 89 years. Much of his life was devoted to breaking up and tilling the soil. In the spring of 1967, he moved into Red Deer.

Richard and Pauline farm two miles south of Ohaton, their two sons are married, Billy to Betty Benz, of Caroline. He works for Kipp Scott in Red Deer. Eddie married Simone Coriveau of Donnelly. They live in Stony Plain.

Rooney, became Mrs. George Christian, they had four daughters; Jean (Mrs. Jerry Keeley) of Edmonton, Shirley (Mrs. Lloyd Hamilton), Marie (Mrs. Joe Langevin), Jerry Ann (Mrs. N. Hansen) all of Red Deer.

Rooney, passed away June 20, 1973 and is buried in Red Deer.

When I interviewed Billy Woof that year, I found a most interesting and proud man; straight and stalwart in stature 5' 10", even at the age of 93. He resided by himself and did his own housekeeping. Nothing pleased him more than taking his daily walk, which included walking all the way up town and return. His active mind, sharp as a pin, enjoyed talking of problems of the public and of political affairs, but best of all he just loved to chat about the old times and the great progress in our Alberta. He was so proud of it. He regularly attended the monthly meetings of Central Alberta Old Timers Association.

Mr. Woof passed away in September, 1969, at the age of 95 years. Our Evarts district is richer for having had such a homesteader. Knowing or meeting him made one realize the fulfillment of a full rich life of hardships and adventure.

Lawrence and Gloria Murphy now reside on Mr. Woofs original homestead.

THE WILLIAM LEMUEL WYLIE FAMILY — written by Orrin Wylie

William Lemuel Wylie and wife Netty Mae and family, came from Post Falls, Idaho, United States, in 1902. They travelled by train to Red Deer, Alberta, sending their belongings plus four head of cattle, two head of horses and two wagons in a boxcar.

Upon arriving in Red Deer, they lived in Government House, a residence for early settlers. They lived there the summer of 1902 and later that fall moved by wagon to their homestead. William Lemuel was noted for his athletic abilities. During their stay at Government House, he proved his ability by winning foot races and kicking contests (to see who could kick their leg the highest.) He was about six feet two inches tall and could kick four inches forwards and backwards above his head. He was an ardent hunter and marksman winning a 12-gauge shotgun in a contest in United States.

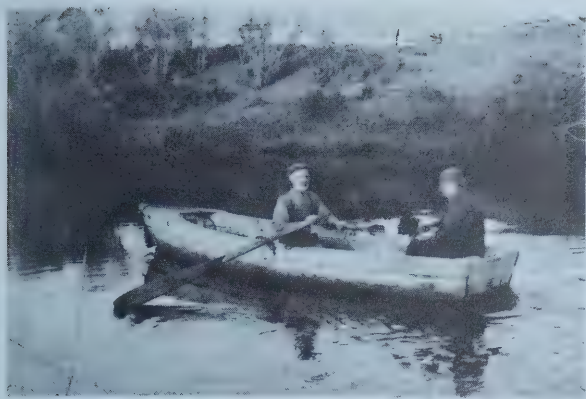
Before taking the N.E. 26-38-3-W. 5, Lemuel came out to inspect it and noticed that there were hay stacks under water. Despite this, it meant that hay was readily available for his stock so the homestead was taken.

Until re-division of school districts, this land was considered in the Evarts district being Evarts was the closest Post Office and shopping area.

At the time of settling, none of the land was under cultivation, except for about 25 acres of natural hay flats. The rest of the quarter was cleared by hand using an axe and oxen.

The Wylie's lived in a tent until a house could be built on the homestead, constructed from logs, cleared from the farm. The roof was built from rough lumber purchased from Dan Clausen's sawmill which was on Chris Anderson's present farm. The roof itself consisted of two layers of lumber with tarpaper between. There was no chimney and roof fires were frequent. The house itself consisted of a combined kitchen and sitting room and a bedroom on the main floor and two bedrooms on the second floor. The house was constructed by Will Witt, a Cherokee Indian from Oklahoma, in 1902.

Some of the earliest neighbours in the area were Slack and Younge who had a cattle ranch where Norman Wells lives, and the Witt family who lived on some of



Lemuel and May Wylie on the Medicine River.

Carl Jensens land of today. Mr. Wylie was believed to have had the first riding plow known as the Flying Dutchman, which he brought with him from the States. Jack Warwick had the first Chevrolet touring car in or around 1915-1916. Mr. Warren, an elevator agent at Benalto, had the first radio. Mr. Warren invited Mr. Wylie to listen to his radio one evening, but they had to return several evenings because reception was so poor. They stated they wouldn't believe it till they heard it. The first horse-drawn threshing machine was owned by Robert Wilson. This machine was powered by eleven horses. The crew consisted of five men. There was one man feeding the machine, two men taking the straw away and piling it, and one driver. The capacity of this machine was about 300 bushels a day. Pederson, from the Burnt Lake district is believed to have had the first steam engine driven thresher about 1906 or 1907. The crew consisted of seven men. There was a separator man, one steam engineer, water hauler and four pitchers, pitching from the stack. A lot of time was spent lining this machine up to the stacks. The machine was pulled by two teams of oxen. The first gramophone was owned by the Smith Brothers. They held a social in the school in the early 1900's, so everyone could hear it and it was well attended. The first train from Red Deer to Rocky Mountain House was in 1914. For entertainment, the people would visit back and forth for card games. There were a number of socials of one kind or another to raise funds for Christmas parties for the youngsters of the community. Later on the people had rodeos at their farms, usually on a Sunday, to test their riding ability. Arthur Kinna was noted for his musical talent and supplied all the music for all the social gatherings. He was entered in many violin contests across Canada. There was an annual picnic at Evarts which included horse racing, sports events and novelty events. This was a real treat to look forward to each year.

In or around 1908, a dust storm unexpectedly blew up and some of the Wylie children were caught out in it. They sought refuge in a hog house, but the wind was so strong that it lifted the roof off and scattered it in pieces over the field.

Mother made all the families' clothes with a treadle sewing machine, baked all the bread, washed the clothes, using a wash-board, ironed all the clothes with sad irons heated on the cook stove. The water had to be carried

from the well and heated on the top of the cook stove for washing clothes. She would take the milk and put it in big pans and wait for the cream to raise to the top, then she'd skim the cream off, and churn it to make butter.

We in the early days got our groceries and mail at Evarts, usually we had to cross the Medicine River by boat, and walk the rest of the way. Mother used to sell garden produce and eggs to the Evarts hotel, this was usually carried down on our backs.

Dad would break oxen for driving in the early days, on one occasion one ox was very balky and would just lay down. This was quite provoking, so Dad decided he would try to cure him. He put some hay under the ox's tail and set it on fire — the ox didn't balk again.

Their family consists of; **Mary Ellen** (Ella), who married Peter Carlyle (deceased), and has a family of three boys and one girl. They reside at Eckville, Alberta. **Margaret Viola**, married Max Lightbown (deceased). They had four boys and three girls. Two children have since deceased. Viola resides at Abbotsford, British Columbia. **Robert**, married Bulah Olmstead. They had two boys and three girls, and reside in California, United States. **Orrin**, married Iva Christie, and their family consists of two boys and four girls. One boy is deceased. They live at Eckville, Alberta. **John**, married Mae Hunter, and have a family of two girls and one boy, and reside at Iroquois, Ontario. **Irene**, married Ted Bardwall (deceased). To them were born one boy and two girls. Then Irene, married Rudy Rasmussen. Three boys and one girl made up their family. Abbotsford, British Columbia is their home. **Hilda**, married Henry Montieth, they reside at High Prairie, Alberta, with their six girls and four boys. **Ida**, married Stewart Meeres, and with their two boys, reside at Red Deer, Alberta. **Walton**, (deceased). **Ernest**, married Violet Karens, they had two boys and two girls, and live at Loughheed, Alberta. **Elsie**, (deceased).

A memorable incident that happened: J. M. MacDonald left his buck board at our place, it was setting on a hill headed towards the river. Us kids wanted some fun, so we put ropes on the shafts and all piled into the buggy, it started to move down the hill and ran into a tree. Lucky for us, if it hadn't been for that tree, we would have ended up in the Medicine River.

Mother and Dad remained on the farm until their passing.

WILLIAM ORRIN WYLIE

Orrin married Iva Christie, daughter of David and Mary Christie (deceased) who farmed at Condor and Stauffer before retiring to Nanaimo, British Columbia.

Orrin and his Dad laid corduroy and did brushing for roadways around the country. Orrin had a string of work horses which were taken to Benalto Stampede and raised for bucking. One horse in particular, named Shorty, was lead bucking horse for several years. He also supplied cattle for a few years to the Stampede. Orrin can boast, that he has only missed one of the Benalto Stampedes since it started and at that time he was experiencing his first jet plane ride. In Orrin's younger years, he used to break horses and did a lot of shoeing of horses for neighbors. He'd also ride a horse out on the range watching the cattle and horses grazing. Then in his spare time he would tan coyote hides.

He recalls in 1943, there was one of the worst floods in the country. They had to wade out to their hog barns to rescue new born pigs in water one and one half feet deep. Then there was the bad blizzard in March, 1951, the temperature was thirty degrees below Fahrenheit. The snow was so deep and hard that one could reach and lean over the telephone lines on what is now number eleven highway. The highway was impossible for over a week and the only vehicle mobile was Sckodopole's caterpillars removing snow from the roads.

Orrin and Iva are still living in the original homestead of the Wylie's. Their family includes; **Harvey**, who married Sheila Kaliputas. They have two girls and live on a farm at Rocky Mountain House, where they raise Quarter horses and Appaloosa horses. Harvey works for Alberta Gas Trunk Lines and Sheila for Royal Canadian Mounted Police. **Pat**, became Mrs. Ronald Kind, they live on Norman Wells' farm south of Eckville. Ron is a water well driller. They have two girls. **Robert** (Bobbie) deceased, he was killed in a car accident in 1967 at the age of twenty-two years. **Carolyn**, married Wayne Osborne. They have a Trans-Canada Gulf Station in Kamloops, British Columbia. They have a daughter and a son. **Elaine**, is a bookkeeper in Shell Oil bulk plant in Kamloops, British Columbia. **Arlene**, attended Benalto,

Sylvan Lake and Red Deer College and is now employed in Red Deer.

In 1976, Orrin and Iva, along with other members of the Wylie family went to Iroquois, Ontario, to be present at the 50th wedding anniversary of brother John and Mae Wylie.

Some of the people who lived on N.E. 36-37-3-W5.

Tommy Flood, married man. He had served in First World War and had received an eye injury.

Bolandars.

Robert (Bob) Wilson.

Some of the people who lived on N.W. 12-38-3-W5.

Fisher came from United Kingdom and lived here for one and a half years. He was a First World War veteran. In 1935, when King George V funeral service was on radio, Mr. Fisher went over to David McNeils at 4.00 a.m. to hear the program.

Chamberlain, worked on the railroad.

Cooks, worked on the section.

Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Kenzle and son, lived there for one and a half years.

Dick and Ruth Wiens with children Rick, Dwight, Errol and Brenda lived on this quarter. Dick was a battery operator. They later bought the home of Mr. and Mrs. Alf Reeves and lived there.



Proud grandparents.

1. William Robertson and Billy.
2. Mr. Hambly senior, Ralph Hambly, Reg and Terry.
3. Mr. and Mrs. Stewart, Norma Jean and Mary.
4. Mrs. Hillman and grandchild.

5. Mr. and Mrs. Will Holsworth and Doris.
6. Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Staniforth, Mr. and Mrs. Patton and grandchildren.
7. Mr. and Mrs. Martin Loken, Louise and Edna.
8. Mrs. Cyrus Jackson and grandchildren.



1. Stewart family Back — Jim, Peter, Gordon. Front — Mrs. Stewart, Isabel, Andy — ice house in background.

2. Peter, Gordon and Jim Stewart.

3. L.-R. — John Holsworth, Ruth Burdick, Walter Holsworth, Carrie Holsworth, Will Holsworth.

4. Holsworth family — early 1920's.

5. Staniforth family. Back — Mr. and Mrs. A. Staniforth, Bill, Alwilda and John. Front — Alice and Jean.



1. Mr. and Mrs. Norton, Mr. and Mrs. Andy Stewart.
3. John Watson, Andy Stewart, Bob McGready.
4. Leonard Boucher and Grant Cameron.
5. Bill Robertson.
6. Arthur Staniforth's threshing crew, 1930.
7. Mr. and Mrs. John Hillman.
8. George Lee.
9. Mrs. Hugh McNeil, Ada Reeves, Mrs. John Watson, Mrs. J. Kellough, Mrs. J. M. McDonald.



1. Hillman's off to school.
2. Ervie Jackson — Silver.
3. All set to go curling.
4. Miss-matched team.
5. Royal visit train — Benalto — 1939.
6. Mr. and Mrs. Stewart — curling rink in background.
7. Boating on the Medicine.
8. Another mode of travel.
9. Off to Ladies Aid.
- 10.-11. Off to school another way.



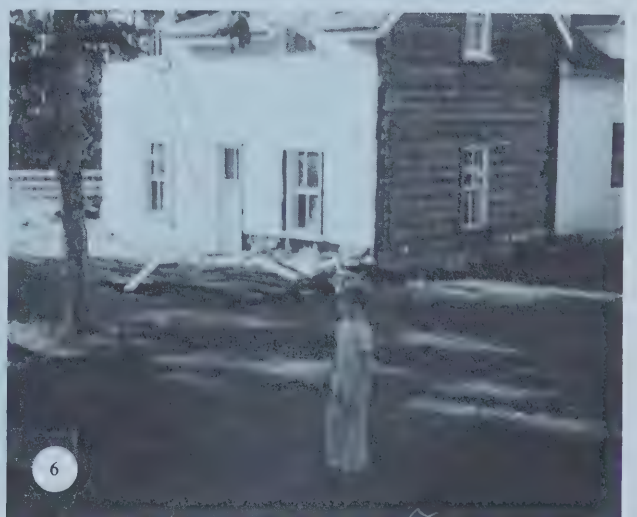
1. Adam McPherson and ox team.
2. Orla W. Neilsen, John Anderson (Burnt Lake), 1924.
3. Mrs. Dick Tennant.
4. Here comes the Rawleigh man.
5. Mrs. Ed Mannerfeldt at the wheel.

6. Pat and Bun (twins) — model T.
7. Watson's model T, 1921.
8. Martin Loken's — to town.
9. Lily Walker and Mr. Craig.



1. George, Nita and Gertie Lee, John Hunford.
2. Island ranch house.
3. Seismic at Evarts-Braton house in background.

4. Sjare home.
5. Mr. and Mrs. Cameron — Sylvan Lake.
6. Running water in the toilet.



1. Early type chicken house.
2. Richard Tennant's homestead shack with John Holsworth.
3. Harvey Jackson residence.

4. Lloyd McNeil's Modular home.
5.&6. Eymundson log-house being remodelled.



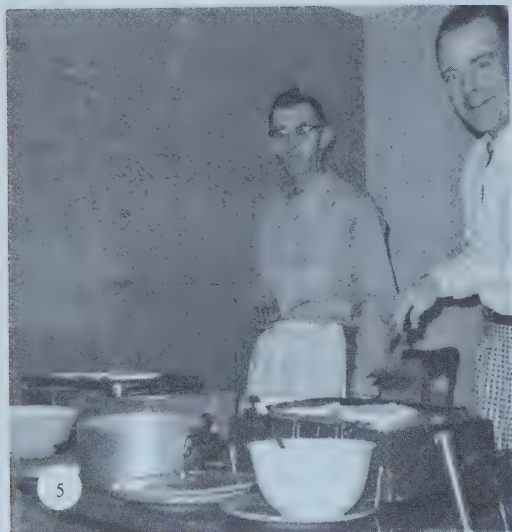
1.&2. Stauffer's sale — pavillion, 1971.
3. Lloyd McNeil's feed mill and grain handling system — 1974.
4. 1954.

5. Watson's feed-lot.
6. Island ranch — 1942.

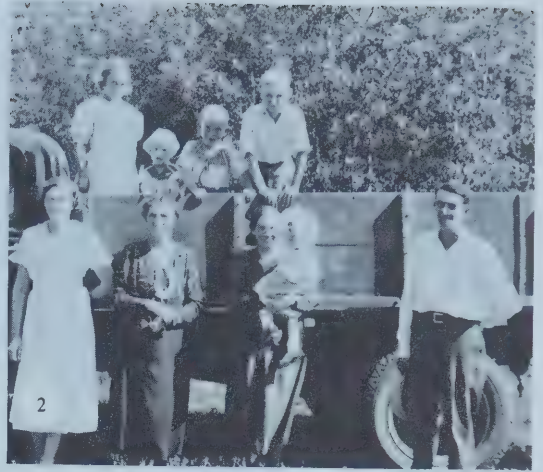


1. Wm. Holsworth, Ormie McKee, Wm. Burdick, John Holsworth.
2.-3.-5.-7. Johansson-Hillman hunting days. 5. — In background,
Barney Eymundson homestead shack.

4. Hunting the modern way.
6. Ducks a plenty — 1953. Kay Watson.
8. Old fort at Rocky Mountain House.



1. Mock wedding — 1963.
2. 1941 — Murrel, Howard, Walter, Roy Steele, Ted Greenwood, and Kay Watson.
3. Lloyd McNeil, Kay Watson, Alex Grant, Charlie Wright, Betty Grant, Willie Wright — 1932.
4. Jarvis, Watson, and Staniforth children.
- 5-6. Pancake supper, Bert Proehl, Bill Staniforth, Harry Periche.
7. Ostercamp children.
8. Lunch time.
9. Ride-em cowboy.



1. R.-L. — Louise Pickering, Mrs. Jean Reeves, Mabel Loken, Mrs. Mannerfeldt.

2. Cameron, Bramall family.

3. Ragnar and Ed Mannerfeldt.

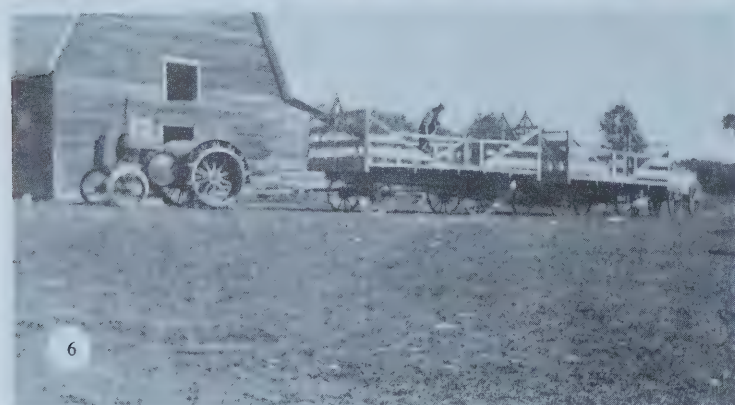
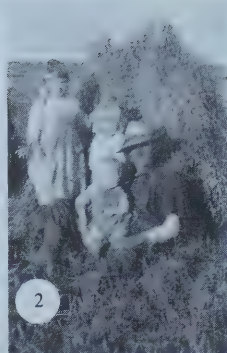
4. Mr. and Mrs. Alf Watkins.

5. Goruk family.

6. John and Darcy Cuddihey.

7. Staniforth and Hallingstead children.

8. Alberta's fiftieth birthday — Mrs. Owen — 1955.



Autumn

1. & 3. Binding.

2. Lunch time.

4. One man operation.

5. Lookin' good.

6. 1940.

7. Swathing.

8. 1940.

9. Fall plowing, 1949.



Turning sod.

1. At McPhersons.

2. Orla W. Neilsen.

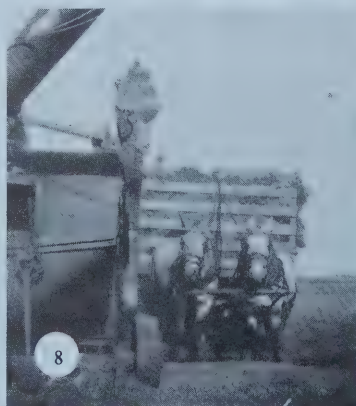
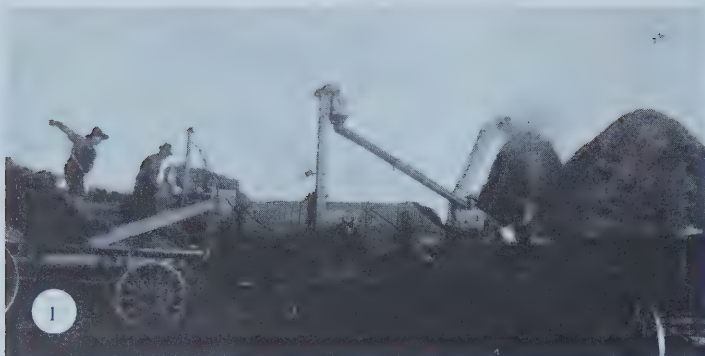
3. Grant Cameron — 1926.

4. Mannerfeldt's 1928.

5. McPherson's steam engine — 1935.

6 & 7. Still at McPherson's.

8. Alex Grant and Kay Watson — 1936 — walking plow.



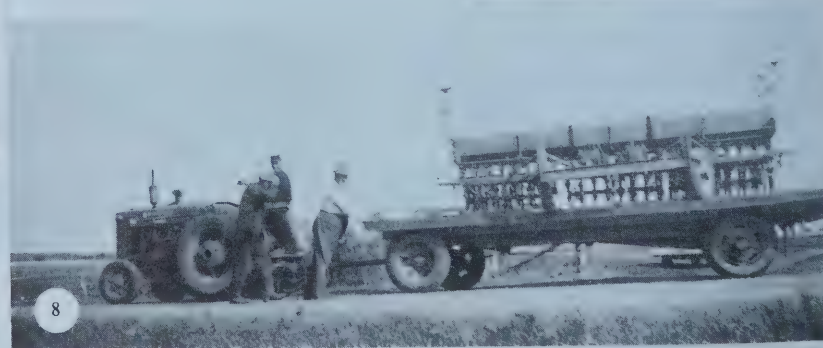
1. Threshing — 1920.
2. 1942.
3. Threshing at Jackson's.
4. 1946.
5. 1932 — McPherson's.

6. 1935 — Larratt's.
7. 1946.
8. Wylie.
9. Armstrong.

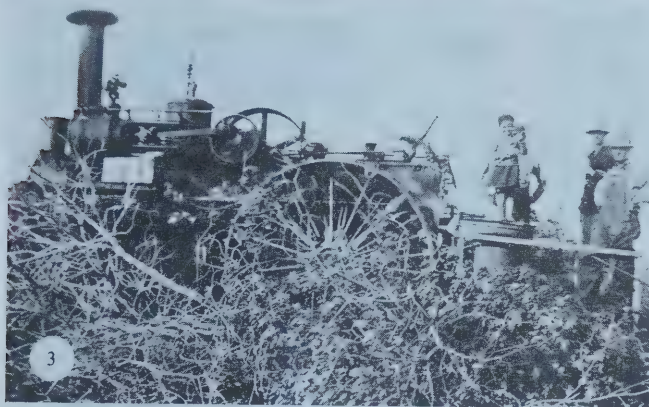


1. Loading grain the hard way.
2. Mr. Murphy feeding pigs.
3. Deer — Alice Hallingstead.

4. Mr. and Mrs. Scott Hastie at farm.
5. 1915 threshing at Camerons.
6. Peter Hastie feeding horse.



1. Martin Loken's barn.
2. 1911.
3. 1946.
4. 1941.
5. Hip-roof barn under construction.
6. Plowing and harrowing.
7. The new way — 1962.
8. In transport.



1. Breaking the hard way — Ragnar Mannerfeldt.
2. 1935 — McPherson's breaking.
3. Machine for brushing and breaking.

4, 5 & 6. Brushing, piling and breaking — Skocdopole's.
7. 1916 — Stewart sheaf loader — one of it's kind.
8. Case Tractor 1916 — Neilsen's.



1



2



3



4



5



6



7



8



9



10



11

1. 1949.
2. 1943.
3. 1951.
4. 1949.
5. Another mode of travel.

6. 1951.
7. 1939.
8. 1951.
9.-10. Sawing lumber at Hambly's.
11. 16 -30 Hart Parr — 1936.



1



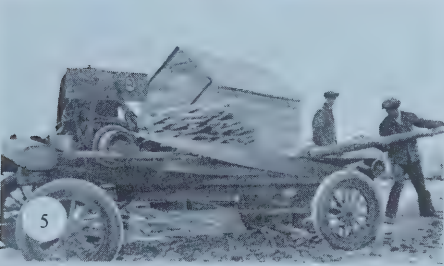
2



3



4



5



6



7



8



9

1. 1946 — Ferry at Rocky Mountain House.

2. Church group — Loken's.

3. Broad-axe wood carving — Edward Bariberger.

4. Wood-sawing, William McPherson — 1936.

5. Sharpening fence posts — Chris Anderson.

6. Lunch time.

7. Robbie Gowans in the wood pile.

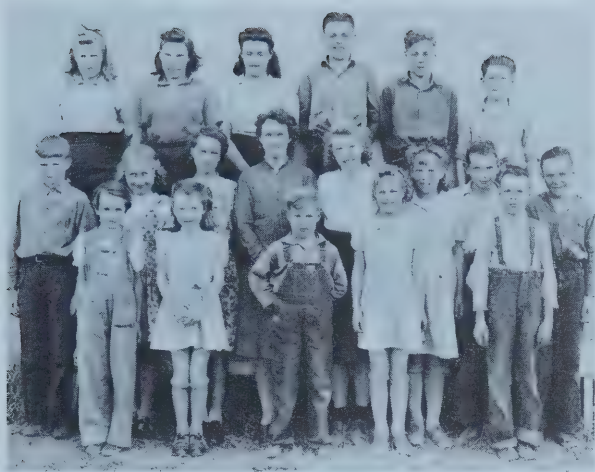
8. L.-R. — Peggy Bramall, Alice Durward, Nellie Watson, Alwilda Staniforth. Sitting — Dollie Stauffer, Norma Stewart.

9. Leila Jackson — quilting.



1.-3.-6. Hillman's wood-sawing and wood-pile.
2. Mrs. Scott Hastie.
4. Necessities of life.

5.&8. Chris Anderson's woodsawing outfit.
7. Another big one.
9. Frank Dallaire sawing lumber.
10. Sawing lumber.



Evarts School, 1941. Left to right, back row — Fern Jackson, Maxine Hall, Jean Staniforth, Dood Staniforth. Left to right, back row — Fern Jackson, Maxine Hall, Jean, Dood and Bill Staniforth, Russel Stauffer. 2nd row — Alvin Todd, Alice Hallingstead, Bernice Hillman Mrs. Laura Holsworth (teacher), Ethel McNeil, June Hillman, Bobby Bramall, Harvey Glass. Front row — Margaret Bramall, Lois Johnson, Bernard Kathol, Marilyn Hillman, Dennis Bramall.



First oil rig in the district, 1948.



Rudy Counnic and his "Bug" 1924.



Rudy Counnic and his hounds.





John Johnsons threshing — Sawyer Massey, 1919.



Wells Bros. over-shot stacker.



Coyote catch — Rudy 1924.



Dad Counnic, Gladys and Rudy, 1926.



Steam and ox power threshing at Wylies.



1. Smith Brothers Island Ranch — 1910
2. 1940
3. Early seeding
4. Mowing — 1918
5. McPherson ox-team
6. Richard Tennant

Evarts, Alta.
Nov. 4, 1903

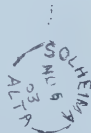
My Dear Miss Martin:

I wonder if you are having this dreadfully cold, windy day. I thought of Miss Cole starting out on horse back this morning. Hope she did not blow off. I surely should have. We got home very nicely on Sunday evening. There was no wind and the night was perfect. It was about half past ten when we reached home & Mrs. B had left a fire, & the light burning so I was very comfortable. Met with no accidents but I was quite tired on Monday I enjoyed

my visit so much that I did not mind a "few aches" after it was over.

I am now looking forward very eagerly to the visit from you & Miss Cole. If you are not sure of the way could not one of your brothers come with you. I am sure Messrs. Smith & Jealous would be glad to have him spend the night with them and we should be pleased to have you all at Mr. Bratons. Try to arrange it so that you can come soon.

Kindly remember me to your mother & Miss Cole. Hoping to see you & Miss Cole soon, also any one else who may come. I am, yours sincerely Oda B. Brown



Miss Lizzie Martin,
Solihuma,
Alta.



Miss Lizzie Martin's letter and envelope.

J. T. Longair's . . . Auction Sale.

Favoured by the owner I will sell by Public
Auction at H. A. Hambley's Farm Denalto
on.

Friday January 12th 1940
commencing 1 P.M. Sharp the following

- 1 Extra Good grade Holstein Cow Age 5 yrs.
Milking, freshen May 10th
- 1 Good Heifer Calf (6 months)
- 40 P.B. Buff Orpington Chickens
- 8 Leghorn Chickens

Household Effects	
1 Enterprise Range	1 Bedroom Dresser
1 Empire Heater	Kitchen Utensils
2 $\frac{3}{4}$ Beds with Mattresses	1 Hand Wabbing Machine) Wringer
1 Winnipeg Bench or new	1 Water Barrel
Dining Room table & Chairs	1 22" Rifle
1 Complete Kitchen Sink	2 Stacks Green feed
1 Singer Sewing Machine	quantity Vegetables
Kitchen Table & Chairs	other articles too numerous
1 Kitchen Dresser	to mention
2 Boys Cycles	

Terms Cash

No Reserve.

No goods to be removed until paid for.

Phyde Stauffer Auctioneer J. T. Longair
Licence No 8-39-40 (Clear.)

"STAR"



Armstrong Bros. will have for service this season at their farm, Sec. 1, Twp. 39, Rge. 3, W 5th M, the splendid Percheron stallion, "STAR", weighing 1700 lbs, which they have just purchased from W. E. & R. C. Upper, of North Portal, Sask., one of the biggest breeders of the Northwest, who were big prize winners at Calgary this year. Star comes of the best imported Percheron Brilliant and Coco stock and is the finest horse of his type and breed which has ever stood for service in the Red Deer west country.

Poster on Star.

GOVERNMENT OF THE PROVINCE OF ALBERTA
Department of Agriculture

No. 1324

STAR [2173]

Certificate of Pure Bred Stallion

The Horse Breeders' Ordinance, N. W. Territories,
Chapter 23, 1903.

The pedigree of the stallion Star [2173] described as follows:
Breed, Percheron; Color, Dark Grey; Marks star;
foaled in the year 1909; has been examined in the Department,
and I hereby certify that the said stallion is of pure breeding and
is registered in a stud book recognized by the Department.

Dated at Edmonton, this 21st day of June, 1913.

GEO. HARCOURT

Deputy Minister of Agriculture

DAM

Mary Ann [567] 44165
Palmette [219] 23105
Pamela (imp) [101] 6242 (2882)
Charmante, belonging to M. Despres

SIRE

Charleroi [570] 28211
Robosse (imp) [181] 24651 (45041)
Paris [2] 12016
Luther (792)

Terms: \$12 to insure mare in foal, \$2 down at time of service;
\$16 for sucking colt, \$2 down. If mare is sold or traded,
service fee becomes due at once.

ARMSTRONG BROS.

Evarts P. O., Owners

No. 72384

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS.

Local Improvement Branch.

RECEIPT FOR TAXES

RECEIVED from *Brit J. Johnson* of *Evarts*) the sum of
Four ----- ¹⁰⁰ DOLLARS, in payment of the taxes due to

LOCAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT NO. *19-B-B* for the year *1904* on the following lands:
S. E. 1/4 Sec. 10-38-3-5

DATED at *Markerville* this *11* day of *March* 190*5*

\$ *4.00*

J. M. Craig
Overseer, Local Improvement District No. *19-B-5*

No. 39254

DOMINION

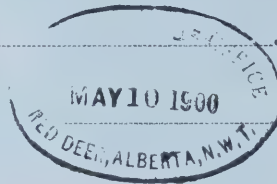


LANDS.

INTERIM HOMESTEAD RECEIPT.

No. 1923

Agency,



190

I Certify that I have received from Erk Mannerfeldt
J. R. Dyer or under the lands herein
the sum of 76 Dollars, being the office fee for Homestead Entry for 76
Quar. of Section 10 — Township — 36 — Range — 2 —
West of 1 Meridian, and that the said Erk Mannerfeldt
is, in consequence of such entry and payment, vested with the rights conferred in such
cases by the provisions of "The Dominion Lands Act," respecting Homestead rights.

The holder of this receipt is required to give six months' notice in writing to the Commissioners Dominion Lands, Ottawa, before making application for patent.

NOTE.—All minerals existing on or under the lands herein described are reserved to Her Majesty.

W. D. Cunningham

Local Agent.

NOTE.—This entry is granted under and subject to the provisions of the Dominion Lands Act and its amendments, governing Homestead Entry for Dominion Lands.

Lr. No.

Ref. No. 655382

Department of the Interior,

Ottawa, JUN. 8. 1906 190

Sir,

I have to inform you that a patent for
NW 1/4 of Section 10
in Township 38 Range 2 West
of the 5th Meridian,
bearing date the 8th May 1905
has issued in your name, and that in accordance with the
provisions of Section 39 of "The Land Titles Act, 1894,"
being Chapter 28 of 57-58 Victoria, it has been forwarded to
the Registrar of the Land Registration District of
EDMONTON
who will furnish you with a duplicate certificate of title free
of charge upon receipt of your application to him therefor,
provided he finds the land unencumbered.

For this purpose please place yourself in communication
with that official, giving him your full name and your Post
Office address.

The Registrar's address is
EDMONTON, ALTA.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

PERLEY G. KEYES,
Secretary.

To Erick Maxmerfeldt Esq
Edmonton
Alta

File No. B5382

Department of the Interior,

Ottawa, Jan 1905

Sir,

I have the honour to inform you that your application
for homestead patent for the NW quarter of
Section 10 Township 38 Range 2
W. 5 M., received the Commissioner's approval on
the 3 Jan and to send you the enclosed certificate
of recommendation.

Encl.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

PERLEY G. KEYES,
Secretary.

Erik Mannerfeldt by
Ewart
Alta

FORM H.

This Certificate is not valid unless countersigned by the Commissioner of Dominion Lands, or a Member of the Dominion Lands Board.

Certificate of Recommendation for Homestead Patent.

Department of the Interior,
Dominion Lands Office,

190

I Certify that Erick Wannerfeldt

who is the holder of a Homestead Entry for the North West quarter
of Section Number 10 Township 38 Range 2
West of the 6th Meridian, has complied with the provisions of the
law required to be conformed to, in order to entitle him to receive a patent for such
Homestead, and that I have recommended the issue of such patent.

Counter signed at Ottawa, this 3rd }
day of Jan 1905 }

J. McNeill
Commissioner of Dominion Lands.

W. S. Bottlingham
Local Agent.

Documents of Dorothy Periche: 1. Interim homestead receipt; 2. Homestead patent; 3. Receipt of taxes; 4. Letter from Department of Interior; 5. Letter from Department of Interior.

\$ 41.62
 On or before the 1st day of January 1910 for
 value received I promise to pay to the order of J. H. Robinson
 two hundred and fifty DOLLARS
 with interest at 5 per cent. per annum, till due, and 8 per cent. per annum
 after maturity till paid. Given for two years and
 one day

The title, ownership, and right of possession of the said chattels, for which this Note is given shall remain in.....
 until this Note, or any renewal or renewals thereof together with all interest, is fully paid, and if default is made in the payment
 of this Note or any renewal or renewals thereof, or should the holder hereof, or any assignee of his, shall have full power to declare this Note, and
 renewals thereof, due and payable at any time, and to immediately take and hold possession of said chattels until
 such Note or renewal or renewals thereof are paid, or to sell the said chattels by public or private sale, and to apply the net proceeds
 towards the payment of any such Note, or Notes and interest.

WITNESS

No. 1 Red Deer, Alta. Feb 15 1910
 The Merchants Bank of Canada.
 Pay J. H. Robinson or Bearer.
 Six 50 Dollars.
 \$ 6.50 W. A. Armstrong 3205

No. 1 Red Deer, Alta. June 1 1914 \$ 8.00
 The Merchants Bank of Canada.
 Pay The Union Bank of Canada or Bearer.
 Sixty hundred and twenty two 00 Dollars
 Being for one Station
 W. A. Armstrong 3205

J. H. ROBINSON
 GENERAL MERCHANT
 POST OFFICE

ACCOUNT NO.
 Letter No.

EVARTS, Alta.

1913

SOLD TO

ACCOUNTS RENDERED MONTHLY

INTEREST AT 10% ON ACCOUNTS OVER THREE MONTHS

DATE	ARTICLES	FOLIO	CREDIT AMOUNT	DEBIT AMOUNT	TOTAL
				2 20	
			12 10	60 95	
				100	
				184	
				40 70	
				190	
				1 65	
				4 70	
				1 25	
				1 75	

We guarantee this pair of shoes to give good wear; otherwise the purchaser will be entitled to a refund or a new pair of shoes.

We cannot accept responsibility for improper greasing, or premature wearing of the leather caused by manure or acid, excessive perspiration, accidents or other causes beyond our control.

In Witness Whereof, the Corporation has caused this guarantee to be signed by its duly authorized officers and to be sealed with the Seal of the Corporation.

Dated this day of

19 at

Signed

TOWN

MERCHANT

CANADA WEST SHOE MFG. CO., LTD.

PER

PER

H. H. Smart

MANAGER

[Signature]

SECRETARY



"Of all the memories of the past,
Those of school are the ones that last"



EVARTS SCHOOL

District Number 736

Township 38,
Alberta, Canada

1919-1920

JOHANNA M. BERTHEUSON, Teacher

PUPILS

Ethel Holsworth
Clara Holsworth
Joe Welsh
Kenneth Jackson
Muri Neilson
Myron Neilson
Thelma Masters
Hilda Johnson
Neva Welsh
John Robertson
Willie McPherson
Betty McPherson
Douglas Masters
Jack Murphy
Eston Holsworth
Laurel Neilson
David Frew

SCHOOL OFFICERS

J. Sjare L. Walker
S. McPherson

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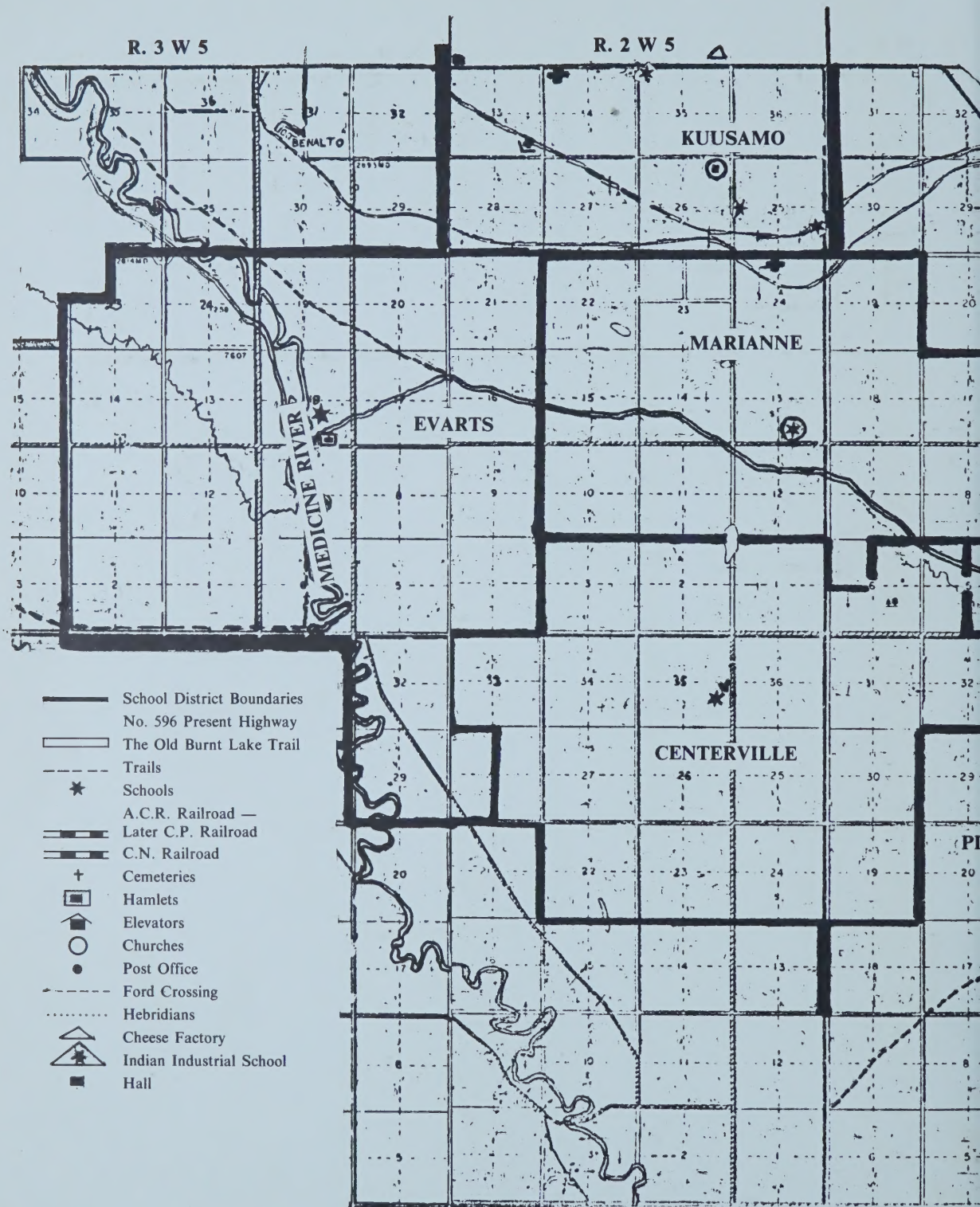
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